FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

CONTENTS

Near East & South Asia

Vol V No 156 *13 August 1987*

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 August Middle East and South Asia Review ..... AA 1

CHAD

Libyan Air Strikes in Northern Region Continue ..... B 1
FANT Communique on Raids ..... B 1
Bombings South of 16th Parallel *[AFP]* ..... B 1
Raids Independently Confirmed *[AFP]* ..... B 1
International Community Urged To Condemn Libya ..... B 1
French Minister Not Ruling Out 'Military Means' *[Paris]* ..... B 2
FRATERNITE MATIN Interviews Foreign Minister *[12 Aug]* ..... B 2

LIBYA

Chadian Force Pledges Solidarity to Al-Qadhdhafi ..... D 1
'Imperialist' Forces Involved in Chad Attack ..... D 1
Iran's Sheykh ol-Eslam Praises Support for Tehran ..... D 1

SUDAN

State Council Member Receives Chadian Minister ..... G 1
Reports of Libyan, Chadian Troops at Border False ..... G 1
Ahmad To Attend Emergency Arab League Meeting ..... G 1
Finance Minister Comments on Results of IMF Talks ..... G 1

ARABIAN PENINSULA

KUWAIT

International Efforts for Gulf Passage Praised ..... J 1
Interior Minister on Surveillance of Aliens ..... J 1
Egyptian Cabinet Affairs Minister Arrives 10 Aug ..... J 1
Voices Egypt's Support *[MENA]* ..... J 1
Departs 12 Aug ..... J 1

SAUDI ARABIA

Iran Said Falsifying Mecca Gunfire Evidence ..... J 1
Sudan's Al-Banna Condemns Iranian Acts at Mecca ..... J 2
Departs Following Pilgrimage ..... J 2
Information Minister Receives Sudanese Counterpart ..... J 2
Iraqi Minister 'Aziz Departs Jeddah 12 May ..... J 3

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Ministry Approves Attending Arab Ministers Meeting ..... J 3

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Iraqi Foreign Minister 'Aziz Continues Visit ..... J 3
Received by President ..... J 3
Makes Statement, Departs ..... J 3

IRAQ

Communique No 2,775 Details Combat 11-12 Aug ..... K 1
AFP Reports Bombed Reactor Secretly Reconstructed *[AFP]* ..... K 1

ISRAEL

Shamir Interviewed on Hill Visit, Lavi, Sharon ..... L 1
Shamir Satisfied With Hill Visit, Jerusalem Talks ..... L 1
Shamir, Peres Offices' Assessment ..... L 2
'Utterly Conflicting' Views ..... L 2
Political Editor on Hill Visit ..... L 2
Ari'el Sharon Defends 'Lebanon War' Decision *[THE JERUSALEM POST 12 Aug]* ..... L 3
Peres Reacts to Sharon Speech ..... L 4
Begin Declines Comment *[HA'ARETZ 13 Aug]* ..... L 5
Justice Bach Sets Rules for Vanunu Testimony ..... L 5
Energy Minister, Electric Company Board Meet ..... L 6
Jordan To Grant Representation to Refugee Camps *['AL HAMISHMAR 13 Aug]* ..... L 6

LEBANON

Syrians on 'Maximum Alert' Due to Camp Sit-In *[VOL]* ..... N 1
Al-Jumayyil Endorses More Power for Shi'ite Sect ..... N 1
Gap Between State Revenue, Expenditures Reported *[VOL]* ..... N 1
Fadlallah Blames Saudis for Mecca 'Massacre' *[VOL]* ..... N 1
Official, Iran Envoy View Beirut-Tehran Flights *[Voice of the Mountain]* ..... N 1
Ba'th Party Member Shot Dead in South *[VOL]* ..... N 1
Israeli Military Movements 'Intensified' in South ..... N 1

AFGHANISTAN

Statement on UN Human Rights Official's Mission ..... P 1
Mujahidin Reportedly Shoot Down Bomber 3 Aug *[Karachi]* ..... P 1

INDIA

President's Address on 40th National Day ..... R 1
Minister Explains Stand, Bofors Reply on Gun Deal ..... R 2
Envoy in Colombo Says Troops To Return After Job Done ..... R 2
4 Police Guarding Editor's Home Killed in Punjab ..... R 3
Floods Ravage Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Sikkim ..... R 3

IRAN

Oil Pipeline To Soviet Union Ready in 3 Months ..... S 1
Velayati Dismisses UN Resolution as 'Unjust' ..... S 1
Velayati Letter Withdrawn *[KUNA]* ..... S 1
Tehran Warns UK, France Over Gulf Naval Presence ..... S 2
Khomeyni's Son Said To Meet U.S., Israeli Groups *[KUNA]* ..... S 2
Khomeyni Appoints Revolution Committees Commander ..... S 2
Khomeyni Bureau Replies to Condolence Messages ..... S 3
Khashuqji Says U.S. Planned To Assassinate Khomeyni *[Beirut]* ..... S 3
Karrubi Reportedly Prevented From Visiting Medina ..... S 3
India's Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks ..... S 4
Meets With Besharati ..... S 4
Holds Talks With Velayati ..... S 4
Pakistani Official Meets Deputy Foreign Minister ..... S 4
Spokesman Denies Al-Basrah, Qal'at Dizah Shelled ..... S 5
Mecca 'Avengers' Convoy Leaves From Yazd for Fronts ..... S 5
Gulf 'Defenders' Convoy Departs ..... S 5

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue ..... S 5
Recent Peshmerga Operations ..... S 5
Communique No 2,926 ..... S 5
1,300 Iraqi Casualties Noted ..... S 6
Guards Down 4 Iraqi Gunships ..... S 6

SRI LANKA

2 Indian Officers Reportedly Killed in Jaffna *[Delhi]* ..... W 1
Proscription of Parties Renouncing Violence Revoked *[Delhi]* ..... W 1
EPRLF, LTTE Dispute Delays Surrender of Weapons ..... W 1
TULF Expected To Contest Provincial Elections ..... W 1
Hameed, Jayewardene Meet With Japan's Kuranari ..... W 1
Kuranari Reaffirms Economic Aid *[KYODO]* ..... W 1
Departs for Bangladesh *[KYODO]* ..... W 2

13 August Middle East and South Asia Review

LD131408 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

British, French Minesweepers — Iran stands ready "to repeat the events of Lebanon which led to the disgraceful removal of the multinational forces," a Tehran radio commentary stated in reaction to the decision by France and Britain to send minesweepers to the Gulf. "No country's flag will enjoy any political considerations," the commentary warned. Tension in the Gulf was "brought to the region by the United States," Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi said in an interview with Tehran radio. He added that security would return to the region only with the departure of the U.S. presence, according to the radio. Meanwhile, Kuwaiti Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir expressed appreciation for "international cooperation in technical efforts" to ensure safe navigation in the Gulf, KUNA reported..

UN Document — In a letter to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati denounced the contents of UN Resolution No 598 on ending the Gulf war, Tehran radio reported. Velayati accused the Security Council of resorting to "unjustifiable and unjust stances of the past" and warned that the United States' "dangerous game" in the Gulf would culminate in "unpredictable tensions" that would "boomerang" against the United States and countries in the region that supported Iraq, the radio reported. In a further development, KUNA reported that following a meeting with the UN secretary general 12 August, Iranian UN Ambassador Seyyed Rajai'e-Khorassani said Iran would withhold Velayati's letter from distribution as a UN document. Rejai'e-Khorassani said he agreed not to present the letter "at this time" and that he would "consider it further."

Battlefront Action — Four Iraqi helicopters were shot down in the "Nasr-7" operational area 13 August, a military statement carried by Tehran radio announced. Regarding action in the south, Iran denied earlier Iraqi charges that it had bombed the cities of Al-Basrah and Qal'at Dizah, IRNA reported. In rebutting the Iraqi allegations, an Iranian military spokesman referred to the reports as "mere lies," and declared that Iran has not fired "a single shell" on Al-Basrah.

Inter-Arab Affairs

The Arab League foreign ministers meeting planned for 15 August has been postponed until 23 August, a "diplomatic source" in Tunis told KUNA, adding that the change will resolve scheduling conflicts and allow additional time for "inter-Arab consultations."

In remarks cited by Amman radio, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal hoped that the foreign ministers would adopt a "unified Arab position" on the Gulf War and the recent UN resolution as well as the "permanent Iranian threats" to Kuwait and the "painful" incidents in Mecca. The Saudi minister was in Amman to deliver a message to Jordanian King Husayn from King Fahd.

On the same day King Husayn received Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, who delivered a message from President Saddam Husayn, Amman radio reported. The king also received 'Atif 'Ubayd, Egyptian minister of state for cabinet affairs and administrative development, who gave the king a message from President Husni Mubarak, Amman radio said. The Egyptian envoy arrived in Jordan from Kuwait, MENA reported, noting that the Kuwaiti amir had praised President Mubarak's "courageous stances."

Libya-Chad

Libyan warplanes bombed Kouba Olanga, situated south of the 16th parallel, a FANT communique carried by Ndjamena radio reported.

Libyan Air Strikes in Northern Region Continue

FANT Communique on Raids

AB121903 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1849 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Communique issued by the FANT High Command on 12 August in Ndjamena — recorded]

[Text] The Libyan Air Force continues its blind, wild bombing of the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti region with a deafening intensity. Ounianga and all the Tibesti region, and especially at Aozou, were thus the targets of these bombing attacks throughout the night of 11-12 August 1987. The same bombing resumed this morning. The locality of Kouba Olanga was bombed at 1107 local time [1007 GMT].

Bombings South of 16th Parallel

AB121647 Paris AFP in French 1606 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Ndjamena, 12 Aug (AFP) — The Libyan Air Force this morning bombed several areas of northern Chad including Kouba Olanga, situated south of the 16th parallel. France has promised to protect Chad below this division, the official (?Chadian Government) radio announced. The report did not, however, specify casualties and damages caused by the bombing.

Located about 40 km south of the 16th parallel on the Ndjamena-Faya-Largeau road, Kouba Olanga is essentially the Chadian Army's logistics base. Its importance has been considerably reduced since Libyan soldiers were flushed out in March to the Aozou Strip on the two countries' borders.

Other targets of the Libyan Air Force Tuesday [11 August] night and Wednesday morning were Ounianga Kebir, located 220 km northeast of Faya-Largeau, and areas in the Tibesti Mountains in the extreme northwest of Chad, according to the radio report.

Since the Chadian Army captured Aozou town on 8 August the Libyan Air Force has bombed areas in northern Chad, according to Ndjamena. However, the Libyan Air Force has not crossed the 16th parallel since the end of February 1987, according to observers. The last Libyan raid of this kind was directed against the same destination of Kouba Olanga.

Raids Independently Confirmed

AB121335 Paris AFP in French 1257 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Paris, 12 Aug (AFP) — Libyan aircraft yesterday bombed Faya-Largeau oasis, the seat of Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti (BET) Prefecture, the Paris headquarters of International Action Against Hunger (AICF) confirmed today.

Two French agronomists working with this humanitarian organization were able to observe material damage on the spot, but no casualties. This is the first independent confirmation of Libyan bombing raids that the Chadian Government has reported since the Aozou's recapture last Saturday, 8 August.

The AICF, which operates in the Chadian Prefectures of Guera, Batha (central Chad), Salamat (southeast), and Ndjamena, has now sought to rehabilitate Chad's agriculture and Faya-Largeau oasis for 2 months. Despite Libyan bombing raids, the French agronomists have decided to remain at their posts.

International Community Urged To Condemn Libya

AB122128 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] [Words indistinct] Libya is more determined than ever to continue its attack on Chad and has refused to negotiate a peaceful solution. Libya therefore continues to bring death to Chadians. Various statements made by Libyan officials as well as Libyan Air Force bombing raids evince this determination to continue the war. The national as well as international community should react to this situation to safeguard Chad's integrity as well as the integrity of the subregion's nations from (?Libyan imperialism).

The fact is that at this very moment, Libyan troops are occupying the northern region of Chad. Chadians should be aware of this situation, and the international community should face its responsibility. In African memory, no regime has ever been so barbaric and so criminal as the one currently prevailing in Libya. Every day, Libyan bombers, the terrible Tupolev-22 aircraft, [words indistinct] not only on our valiant soldiers but every day, bombs are also dropped on civilians living in Bardai, [name indistinct], and Faya-Largeau. Peace-loving people living within the borders recognized as belonging to Chad by all (?international competent authorities) are able to see their love for peace shattered by Libyan bombs. What these people do not understand is that fragmentation bombs and napalm have terrible effects [words indistinct]. When one of these bombs is dropped on a city, the people will suffer from its effects all their lives if they do not die immediately. (?It is certain) that no one is safe from these bombs, the use of which is denounced by the international community in accordance with the Geneva Convention. By using these fragmentation bombs and napalm, Libyans are seeking to exterminate the Chadians. Libyan is telling us that it is unleashing open and total war. Our fellow citizens should be aware of the situation and support our valiant FANT. They are the guarantee of our survival, the future of our country, and the guarantee of our territorial integrity. The mobilization should be nationwide due to the gravity of the situation. Right now, some Chadians are issuing blustering statements because they are more concerned about their own well-being than their love for the fatherland. But fortunately, these persons constitute only a minority. Libyans are bombarding our country; the international community should therefore face its responsibility by following the example of the Ivory Coast and Senegal, both of whom praised the FANT's heroic conduct at the Aozou battle. In addition to this victory's diplomatic aspect, the OAU, the United Nations, the nonaligned countries, the ICO, and all international organizations should condemn the genocide being perpetrated by the Libyan barbarians against our fellow citizens in the Borkou-Ennedi-Tibesti region.

French Minister Not Ruling Out 'Military Means'

LD121615 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Excerpts] The Chad question is again at the forefront of African news today. The French defense minister today made a particularly important statement: France maintains its support for Chad's territorial integrity and does not rule out any means, including military means, to contribute to the situation. Andre Giraud stated that air protection operations could be justified by, for example, the protection of humanitarian missions that France is carrying out in the north. This is an indirect reference to the Libyan bombing of localities south of the Aozou Strip. The Chadian authorities have today denounced this act, calling it blind and random.

However, the French defense minister nevertheless confirmed that military operations occurring in the Aozou Strip are not France's concern. [passage omitted]

Another development in the Chad affair has been Goukouni Oueddei's reaction to the latest events in Chad. The GUNT president spoke to Radio France International on the current fighting, and stated he does not condemn President Hissein Habre for proceeding with the Aozou's recapture. However, according to Goukouni Oueddei, the moment for this was particularly badly chosen since Chadian national reconciliation has not yet been achieved. More than this, the resumption of fighting greatly reduces the chances of reaching an agreement in the current [reconciliation] talks. [passage omitted]

FRATERNITE MATIN Interviews Foreign Minister

AB121822 Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 12 Aug 87 p 23

[Interview with Foreign Minister Gouara Lassou by *Fraternite Matin* correspondent Mohamed Fana in Abidjan; date not given]

[Text] [Fana] Does the capture of Aozou constitute a great step in retaking Chad's far-northern region?

[Lassou] The liberation of Aozou's locality is an important victory for our people, who have fought to achieve their freedom, dignity, and territorial integrity. Consequently, our people are joyous about this event. Since they are aware that this victory over the expansionist Libyan forces is only one step — albeit an important one — it is up to them to consolidate and defend this gain. That is why, during the Ndjamena [victory] demonstrations, an appeal was made to our people to be vigilant, to always remain prepared to continue the struggle for consolidating this gain.

[Fana] Within the OAU, are there various views on the Chad-Libya border conflict, especially regarding the Aozou Strip?

[Lassou] The pan-African organization does not possess several views on the Chad-Libya border conflict because the OAU, which was founded by our heads of state in 1963, recommended the inviolability of borders inherited from independence in a resolution passed in Cairo in 1964. The OAU, therefore, has well-defined principles that it asks only member states to observe. For the OAU, Chad's borders are therefore those inherited from France on 11 August 1960 when Chad won its independence. Aozou is included within these borders. Even after independence, until 1965, France, at Chad's request, maintained its forces in northern Chad, at precisely the Aozou post. Consequently, Aozou is an integral part of Chad's territory, which measures 1,284,000 square km. Chad has no territorial ambitions whatsoever. It has no territorial ambitions against any country. Chad only wants to recover and defend its territorial integrity.

There cannot be several interpretations of this conflict within the OAU, whose stand is clear. Chad has its border and Libya has its own border that each state recognizes in conformity with the principles of the OAU Charter. To my knowledge, these constitute the statements and stand of the OAU.

[Fana] Why have you not yet found a peaceful settlement to the conflict?

[Lassou] A setlement does not depend on the OAU but rather on the regime of Al-Qadhdhafi, the Libyan colonel who aims at extending his territory to include Chad. Al-Qadhdhafi thinks that because of his material and financial resources, Chad is his ... property. Al- Qadhdhafi is spurred on by devilish ambition. Let us compare comparable things. Al-Qadhdhafi is a rival of Hitler. He is obsessed by unrestrained ambition and believes that he has a prophetic mission and is entrusted with a message to be conveyed not only to his country but to Africa, to the Third World, and so why not to the entire world? When a man reaches such a level of megalomania, it is difficult to reason with him. That is why he has opted for the use of force. He is blinded by his material resources. However, it must be understood that material resources can in no way fool a people fighting to defend their dignity, their independence, and their territorial integrity.

It is for this reason that our people place more faith in themselves rather than in material resources. We believe that we are acting within our rights, that our cause is just, and that our people will be victorious, by the grace of God, because we have no designs for dominating Libya. We are struggling for our existence and for the survival of our people. In this struggle, no power can make us bow our heads. We know the suffering our people have endured and we know what the costs will be, but we will not shirk from any sacrifice. That is the price of our freedom, of our dignity, and of our independence; so we will continue the struggle until we are free.

[Fana] Your struggle continues; this is a fact. However, what progress has been achieved in a reconciliation with Goukouni Oueddei?

[Lassou] The problem of national reconciliation cannot be linked with Al-Qadhdhafi's war against us. We have liberated the Chadian territory of Aozou. We liberated it with the help of all Chadians, including those who were once misled by Al-Qadhdhafi. Our present accomplishment was made possible by the majority of Chadians. Most of our people participated in the war and contributed in kind, both financially, and, of course, with bloodshed. Our current struggle concerns all Chadian patriots. The problem of national reconciliation is a secondary problem, a

secondary contradiction. When the major dispute between Al-Qadhdhafi's regime and ourselves is resolved, the secondary problem, which is an internal one — one caused by partisan quarrels and petty problems — will also be resolved.

However, there is no country in the world that does not have such internal contradictions. This problem must not prevent our people from laboring, especially because President Habre and his government have always stated that Chad is for all Chadians. The right place for Chadians, whether rich or poor, is in Chad.

We must first manage to solve the problem of this war of aggression before we can ask our people to decide on how Chad can be governed, if they have any ideas concerning this. Then, without bayonets being pointed behind us, we can organize free national discussions on how our country can be governed. This is what we believe; we will have maintained dialogue with our brothers who are still in the opposition. We will not relent, however, because since our brothers are living outside of our country, they are certainly subjected to humiliations that affect not only themselves but also us. This is so because whenever a Chadian national is humiliated, no matter where he is, all Chadians must feel humiliated. It is because this is being done in the name of Chad; we have no right to make our fellow countrymen feel humiliated anywhere. These are our reasons for taking such steps toward national reconciliation.

[Fana] Have you totally given up any recourse to the International Court of Justice at The Hague as another method for achieving a peaceful settlement?

[Lassou] The Chadian Government has always upheld the idea of peacefully settling the conflict between itself and Libya; we have never ruled out peacefully settling this question. But as President Habre once stated, the major question concerns Al-Qadhdhafi's attitude: Will he, or will he not, recognize Chad as an independent and sovereign state that he should hold discussions with? Will he recognize Chad as a state with internationally recognized borders, as a state that exists?

Unless the Tripoli regime takes a clear stand vis-a-vis Chad, we do not see what questions we can discuss with it. Since Libya wants to force Chad into submission, Chadians are responding by defending themselves for their country's survival. Our struggle must be viewed against this backdrop. When the Libyans establish dialogue with us and recognize our existence, we will be prepared to meet with Al-Qadhdhafi or his emissaries. However, we will continue the struggle as long as they persist in ignoring our existence.

[Fana] The conclusions of the ad hoc committee could be decisive, could they not?

[Lassou] The ad hoc committee has submitted its report to the OAU. It cannot draw any conclusions because one party has refused to cooperate with it. That party must, therefore, agree to cooperate and produce all legal documents at its disposal to enable the ad hoc committee to draw its own conclusions on this issue. Chad has produced documents dating as far back as the 1898 treaty signed in London between France and Great Britain, the 1956 friendship treaty between France and Libya, and the friendship treaty between Chad and Libya — sufficient documentation to serve as a basis for ruling on this issue. Unfortunately, Al-Qadhdhafi refuses to cooperate simply because he has nothing to say and because he believes he possesses the means — his Army — to impose force not only on Chad but on Africa. He is therefore defying the entire continent.

In my opinion, the pan-African organization cannot draw any conclusions as long as Libya does not provide legal documents it possesses.

Chadian Force Pledges Solidarity to Al-Qadhdhafi

LD122012 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] The Al-Burkan Chadian force has sent a cable to the brother leader of the revolution, which says:

The forces of evil and aggression massing on the southern border of the Great Jamahiriyah are claiming that a solution is attainable through force. As they gather with all their American, French, and Zionist equipment, which is being sent to agent Hissein Habre, leader of the Ndjamena gang, the 1st Army, Al-Burkan force, one of the squads of the Chadian revolution and its green flag, would like to tell you and the struggling Libyan Arab people that national duty, honor, and the dignity of the Libyan land must be defended. According to immortal experience, defending the homeland is the responsibility of every citizen.

Therefore, we must carry our weapons and stand by our Libyan Arab brothers. This is a sacred duty. We strongly condemn this blatant crusading interference on the southern border of the Jamahiriyah. This interference by U.S., French, and Zionist imperialism threatens peace and security.

Yesterday's attack on the Aozou region was not a surprise. History testifies that similar attacks have taken place against the Gulf of Sidra and against the house of the leader. We will never be complacent. We will remain loyal soldiers and a strong shield for the two revolutions. We are at your disposal.

March forward, and may the revolutionary struggle continue.

'Imperialist' Forces Involved in Chad Attack

LD121835 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1130 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] The southern border of the Great Jamahiriyah has been subjected to an aggression planned and carried out by imperialist and reactionary forces only a few days after the conclusion of the OAU summit in Addis Abab, which had called for a peaceful settlement of the Chadian question.

Observers have linked this irresponsible and adventurous behavior by the lackey Habre with encouragement from imperialist circles, behavior which has involved sons of the Chadian people in lost battles and pushed them into the furnace of death and destruction. This behavior has also been linked with the internal situation in Ndjamena, where chaos and disunity among Habre's forces is so rampant that it has been transformed into a real armed confrontation against him. A widespread mutiny staged by his ministers initiated events. This led a number of them to retreat to the forests, while declaring the start of an armed resistance against mutineer Habre. Another group went to the Sudanese-Chadian border while still other groups consisting of officers and soldiers took to the Mongo mountains. Faced with a serious internal threat, the propaganda mouthpieces of mutineer Habre, especially his radio, are waging a campaign of deception among Chadian citizens aimed at waging war against the Great Jamahiriyah and fighting the Libyans across the southern Libyan Arab border. Habre's radio appeals for the continuation of aggression, which observers forecast will have serious consequences. In a statement, Jean Bousquet, member of the French National Assembly, has warned that this aggression will lead to a serious military escalation. He pointed out that the Libyans would retaliate violently. President Goukouni Oueddei has arrived at the same conclusion. In a statement of his own, Goukouni asserted that this aggression would have innumerable and unpredictable consequences in and around the region.

Analyses of news reports have disclosed that it is impossible for Habre's forces to attack the Libyan Arab Aozou oasis without French help. This was frankly expressed by the French paper *L'Humanite* in last Monday's issue, when it unambiguously affirmed French involvement in the attack. Based on its own sources, it also pointed out that the lackey Habre and the French have decided to escalate the war. In conclusion, the lackey Habre carried out an aggression against the southern border of the Great Jamahiriyah, disregarding all OAU efforts. As a spokesman for the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison asserted in a press statement yesterday, it remains to be said that, in the face of this aggression, the Great Jamahiriyah knows how to respond without hampering its readiness to consolidate efforts to achieve peace in Africa.

Iran's Sheykh ol-Eslam Praises Support for Tehran

LD121445 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Brother Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, the Iranian deputy foreign minister, arrived in Tripoli yesterday evening on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Brother Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam made a statement to a JANA correspondent in which he affirmed that he highly valued the brave position of the brother leader of the revolution with regard to the causes of freedom and liberation in various parts of the world. He said that he appreciates the true stance which has been adopted by the brother of the revolution toward the horrible crime perpetrated against Iranian pilgrims. The Iranian deputy foreign minister also expressed his country's solidarity with the Libyan Arab people in their brave resistance against all imperialist and colonialist conspiracies and plans.

State Council Member Receives Chadian Minister

JN121552 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Aug (SUNA) — State Council Member Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din received here today Adoum Moussa Seif, the Chadian mines and energy minister, and Mahamat Djobeir [name as received], Political Bureau member of the National Union for Independence and Revolution.

Dr Taj al-Din told SUNA that during the meeting they had discussed bilateral relations, as well as regional and international issues. The Chadian delegation is currently on a visit to the country for several days.

Reports of Libyan, Chadian Troops at Border False

JN121520 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Aug (SUNA) — State Council Member Dr 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din has asserted that reports about the presence of Libyan and Chadian troop concentrations on Sudan's western border or in its territory are unfounded.

In a statement published in the *AL-USBU'* newspaper today, Dr Taj al-Din stated that all reports and information confirm the nonexistence of such troop concentrations. He added that the Armed Forces are stationed and operating in the border areas on a permanent basis.

In his statement, the State Council member called on the media to stop indulging in undermining Sudan's national security without regard for the realities of the situation. He pointed out that this behavior will have negative effects on the country's security.

The newspaper said that it had previously published a statement made by a Constituent Assembly deputy for the Darfur region in which he said that a fully armed Libyan force of 10,000 was in the region to strike at Chad from the Darfur territories.

Ahmad To Attend Emergency Arab League Meeting

EA130006 Khartoum SUNA in English 1630 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Aug — Sudan has agreed to participate in the emergency meeting of the Arab League Ministerial Council which is scheduled to convene in Tunis on 15th August to discuss the current situation in the Gulf, it was announced here today. An informed source at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry announced that Foreign Minister Muhammad Tawfiq Ahmad will lead the Sudanese delegation to the said meeting, which was called by Tunisia.

Finance Minister Comments on Results of IMF Talks

JN130712 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1725 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 12 Aug (SUNA) — At a Constitutional Assembly session this morning, Dr Bashir 'Umar, minister of finance and economy, announced that the IMF board of directors in Washington has accepted what was agreed upon during recent talks held between an IMF team and Sudan in Khartoum.

The minister also reviewed the details of these talks. He said that they dealt with medium-term reform and that the IMF considers these achievements to be a positive step. The achievements concern economic policy and the need to increase revenues within the framework of declared objectives. Of special interest are the plans to increase national income growth by 5 percent and to reduce foreign aid, inflation, and the budget deficit. This also includes the need to curtail public spending in some sectors provided that this will not affect production or the people's living standards.

Basic commodity subsidies will continue, the minister added, and this will be reflected in the state budget. It has also been agreed that public facilities in various sectors need reform, which is to be implemented in 4 years.

In his address to the Constitutional Assembly, the finance minister affirmed that the new monetary policy will confront the scarcity of foreign currency by curtailing its demand. He said that all activities involving foreign currency demand will be reviewed. These include importation, travel abroad, Sudanese embassies, tourism, and pilgrimages. Bashir 'Umar noted that a policy has been drawn up for this and that part of it requires a political decision.

He stated that foreign currency enters the country in two ways: through the banking system and by visitors from abroad. The finance minister said that there are specific restrictions controlling the banking system and it is impossible for foreign currency to leak into the Sudanese market. He added that black marketeers can be fought through economic constraints such as implementing a repricing policy and publishing deterrent laws.

The minister indicated that the issue of foreign currency scarcity will be tackled according to economic measures which include encouraging exports and remittances by Sudanese citizens working abroad.

He said that security teams have been sent to some Arab countries to monitor money changers working abroad. He added that these teams have managed to identify some personalities.

The minister affirmed that an agreement has been reached with the IMF on the policy of providing profitable dollar prices for Sudanese citizens working abroad. He said that this policy will be announced later.

KUWAIT

International Efforts for Gulf Passage Praised

LD130852 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 13 Aug 87

[Text] Kuwait [no date as received] — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has declared that Kuwait is following with interest international efforts now being exerted under the UN Security Council to bring a just and quick finish to the Iraq-Iran war. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad was answering a question by KUNA concering current contacts and efforts to remove mines from Arabian Gulf waters. The deputy prime minister and foreign minister added: "We would like to express our appreciation for the international technical cooperation and efforts to ensure safe navigation in Gulf waterways. This will ensure free and safe normal passage by regional and international states."

Interior Minister on Surveillance of Aliens

LD130910 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0745 GMT 13 Aug 87

[Text] Kuwait, 13 Aug (KUNA) — Minister of Interior Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad, today stressed that security personnel are lying in wait for any evil criminal who wants to harm the homeland. The security personnel, he noted, are determined to defeat any evil intention that seeks to harm the homeland's stability and cohesion.

In a statement to the Kuwaiti [newspaper] *Al-Qabas*, Shaykh Nawaff declared that the Ministry of Interior will soon issue a number of decisions concerning the residence of aliens. These will define the entry of aliens into the country and their residence in it as well as measures for instituting surveillance on aliens throughout their residence. He pointed out that application of the decision pertaining to the lapse of an alien's residence permit, should an alien be absent from the country for 6 consecutive months, will begin from 6 January 1988. He also indicated out that the sixth meeting of the GCC member states' interior ministers will be held on 13 October in the UAE. The minister commented that views and proposals which are dictated by the nature of the current phase and that will ultimately contribute to the region's service and stability will be submitted at this meeting.

Egyptian Cabinet Affairs Minister Arrives 10 Aug

LD102113 Kuwait KUNA in English 1522 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Kuwait, 10 Aug KUNA — The Egyptian minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, Mr 'Atif 'Ubayd, arrived here today coming from Amman on a short visit to Kuwait.

Mr 'Ubayd has a message to his highness the amir of the country from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Voices Egypt's Support

NC120937 Cairo MENA in English 0902 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 12 (MENA) — Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, Egyptian minister of the cabinet affairs and state minister for administrative development, voiced Egypt's support for Kuwait in the face of the threats it comes under.

In a statement he made upon his departure from Kuwait to Amman, Dr. 'Ubayd said that he felt during his meeting with Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad and Crown Prince Sa'd al-'Abdallah, the depth of fraternal ties binding both countries.

He pointed out that during his visit he delivered a message from Egyptian President Husni Mubarak to Shaykh Jabir on the Gulf situation and the Egyptian call for holding an emergency Islamic summit following the recent Mecca incidents.

Dr. 'Ubayd also said that the amir of Kuwait expressed his appreciation of President Mubarak's courageous stances vis-a-vis the Arab and Islamic issues.

Dr. 'Ubayd is expected to deliver a message to King Husayn of Jordan today during his visit to Amman which he will leave later today for home.

Departs 12 Aug

LD120924 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0848 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Kuwait, 12 Aug KUNA — Dr Muhammad 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development in the Arab Republic of Egypt, departed today following a 2-day visit.

During his visit, Dr 'Ubayd conveyed a message to his highness the amir from President Husni Mubarak. He also met with Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister.

Dr 'Ubayd was seen off at his departure by Dr 'Abd al-Rahman al-'Awadi, minister of public health and acting minister of cabinet affairs, and Dr Ahmad 'Atiyah Al-Masri, head of the Egyptian Interests Section in Kuwait.

SAUDI ARABIA

Iran Said Falsifying Mecca Gunfire Evidence

LD121714 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1530 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Jeddah, 12 Aug (SPA) — In reply to the continuous lies by the Iranian regime, and stressing what was previously announced thorugh the media, a responsible source made the following statement to SPA:

Some of the Iranian rulers, including Minister of Interior Mohtashemi, still falsely and insidiously insist that Saudi security forces opened fire on demonstrators among Iranian pilgrims in Mecca on 31 July. In addition, they are still bringing to the people's attention in Tehran some of the Iranian corpses that are

among the hundreds that daily fall in the battles raging between Iraq and Iran. They also bring before the cameras the wounded from the battlefields who make false declarations that were taught to them. This is according to what we have learned from the most reliable sources, who informed us that the corpses and some of the wounded shown on Iranian television were not at all among the pilgrims.

The source added: Moreover, we learned from an Iranian eyewitness among them, and from a Malaysian pilgrim who observed with his own eyes, how the Revolutionary Guards opened fire on some of the corpses and how they disfigured the corpses when they were handed over from hospitals following autopsies by all medical delegations participating in this year's pilgrimage. The medical delegations stressed, in a document signed and immediately made public, that these corpses did not bear any traces of bullet wounds. However, the Iranian regime, which did not hesitate in violating the holy mosque's sanctity to implement its political schemes and aggressive aims against Muslims and God's holy mosque pilgrims, consequently did not hesitate to use the dead's inviolability as a means for agitation. This was a desperate attempt to confirm their allegations and justify their crime before the Iranian people, who now know all the truth.

The source said: As for the statements made by some of Iran's leaders, including Musavi, Mohtashemi, and Hashemi-Rafsanjani — who said that the Saudi authorities were slow in handing over the corpses of the victims of their crime, alleging that the Saudi authorities could have transported these corpses in one aircraft — and in regard to all the other lies uttered every hour by each one of them, we reaffirm to the Muslim Iranian people and to all seekers of truth that it is Iran's leaders who were slow in identifying their dead. This exists in a written acknowledgment from them. It is also the Iranians who insisted on making several trips to transport these corpses due to the evil intentions they had in mind, as we have previously indicated. The purpose behind all of this was to stir up agitation and threats anew with the arrival of every aircraft carrying corpses.

The source added: It is strange that after announcing their inability to identify the corpses, they asked the Saudi authorities to allow them to transport all the corpses to Tehran to take care of them there. This includes the corpses of other pilgrims who were hired from other states or those of innocents who sought to intervene to persuade the Iranian demonstrators to clear the way, as we announced them.

The source concluded by stating: We are not accustomed to replying over and over to such calumnies that are known to everyone. However, we want the entire world to know the extent of the discomfiture the Iranian regime finds itself in due to the shame and disgrace that befell it while seeking to justify its repeated crimes in the holy lands by misleading public opinion, including the Muslim Iranian people.

Sudan's Al-Banna Condemns Iranian Acts at Mecca

LD122204 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2030 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 12 Aug (SPA) — Idris al-Banna, deputy chairman of the Sudanese State Council, stressed Sudan's stand and the solidarity of its people and government with the Kingdom on the bloody events caused by the Iranian band in holy Mecca. Al-Banna expressed anew brotherly Sudan's condemnation of the Iranian regime's acts. Mr al-Banna then expressed his support for the measures taken and still being taken by the Kingdom to protect the holy places and safeguard their sanctity.

Prior to his departure from Jeddah this evening, Al-Banna commented in a statement to SPA that we condemn this act and denounce Iran's stubbornness, which has been a cause of concern not only for the Kingdom and Sudan, but also for the entire world. [passage omitted]

Departs Following Pilgrimage

LD121956 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1855 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Jeddah, 12 Aug (SPA) — Idris al-Banna, deputy chairman of the Sudanese State Council, departed Jeddah this evening after performing the rites of pilgrimage. [passage omitted]

Information Minister Receives Sudanese Counterpart

LD121758 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1645 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Jeddah, 12 Aug (SPA) — Mr Ali al-Sha'ir, minister of information, this afternoon received Dr Ma'mun Sanadah, the Sudanese minister of culture and information and official spokesman [of his government]. Dr Sanadah conveyed an urgent verbal message from the Sudanese Government to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, including a conclusive denial of the Iranian broadcasts on Sudan's opinions concerning the events in Mecca.

The Sudanese minister of information commented that the Sudanese foreign minister summoned the Iranian ambassador in Khartoum and delivered an official protest to him. This protest concerned what he had stated regarding meetings with the Iranian official who visited Khartoum recently and the distortion of what took place between that official and the Sudanese prime minister.

The Saudi charge d'affaires was also summoned and informed about the truth of the matter. In addition, the Sudanese media has relayed denials of all that was broadcast by Iranian media.

Dr Ma'mum Sanadah made the following statement after his meeting with Mr Ali al-Sha'ir:

On behalf of the brother Sudanese ministers and governors who performed the rites of pilgrimage this year and on my own behalf, I conveyed to Brother Ali al-Sha'ir, minister of information of fraternal Saudi Arabia, our appreciation of the great efforts exerted by the Kingdom's Government — under the leadership of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy

mosques — for the pilgrims's comfort and for enabling them to perform the rites easily and in an atmosphere of security. I also conveyed to him our admiration for the Kingdom's great achievements in development and construction.

I stressed to the minister our condemnation of the disturbances committed by some Iranian pilgrims in Mecca near the holy mosque. We consider these a departure from the teachings of the orthodox Islamic religion and a violation of the sanctity of the holy places. We believe that the Saudi Government has the right to protect the holy places, to stand firmly against any disturbance of security and order, and to apply its laws on its territories to preserve peace and calm so that pilgrims are able to perform this great rite.

Ali al-Sha'i expressed to his counterpart Dr Ma'mun Sanadah, Sudanese minister of culture and information and governmental spokesman, his deep gratitude and appreciation for the true brotherly feelings conveyed by Dr Ma'mun Sanadah on behalf of the Sudanese Government. Ali al-Sha'ir also stressed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia knows very well that the Iranian rulers are accustomed to such calumnies and commonly fabricate statements, attributing them to many officials and others among the pilgrims of God's holy house, thus ignoring Almighty God's saying: "Those who invent a lie against God will never prosper."

Iraqi Minister 'Aziz Departs Jeddah 12 May

LD120828 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] His Excellency Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, departed Jeddah this morning following a visit to the Kingdom. During his visit he delivered a message to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, from his brother Saddam Husayn, the Iraqi president.

He was seen off at the airport by Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, the minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers; the director general of the Foreign Ministry branch and protocol in the western region; Salim Sunbul, a representative from the Royal Protocol; and 'Abd al-Malik al-Yasin, the Iraqi ambassador to the Kingdom.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Ministry Approves Attending Arab Ministers Meeting

JN101834 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1753 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 10 Aug (WAM) — The UAE has agreed to attend the Arab foreign ministers' extraordinary meeting. A responsible source in the UAE Foreign Ministry has stated that the ministry has informed the Arab League General Secretariat of the UAE's decision to attend this meeting. The meeting, scheduled to be held soon, will discuss the current situation in the Gulf region and the Arab situation in general.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Iraqi Foreign Minister 'Aziz Continues Visit

Received by President

JN121322 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, today received at his office Tariq 'Aziz, the Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister. Tariq 'Aziz conveyed a message to President Salih from his brother, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, concerning the current regional situation, the latest developments in the Iraq-Iran war, ongoing preparations to hold an emergency meeting of the Arab League Council in Tunis, and relations between the two fraternal countries.

During the meeting, President Salih affirmed our country's principled stands in assisting and supporting fraternal Iraq.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN130628 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Sanaa this evening following a short visit. During his stay, he conveyed a message to brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, from his brother, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

In a statement to *Saba' News Agency*, Tariq 'Aziz declared that President Salih had asked him to convey his brotherly greetings to his brother President Saddam Husayn and his wish for success to Iraq in defending its sovereignty and dignity. President Salih also affirmed the YAR's support and assistance to fraternal Iraq. He stated: During our meeting with the brother president, we discussed the general Arab situation and current developments. We also discussed the steps that should be taken to promote Arab solidarity. We reviewed ways to boost the Arab stand for confronting hostile attempts against the Arab nation and countries of the region. Our viewpoints on both of these issues were identical.

Tariq 'Aziz was seen off by Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and member of the Standing Committee; 'Abd Husayn Ibrahim al-Rifa'i, Iraqi ambassador to Sanaa; embassy staff; and a representative from the president's office.

Communique No 2,775 Details Combat 11-12 Aug

JN121634 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1500 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,775 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 12 August 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The people's Armed Forces continue to heroically confront the remnants of injustice and barbarism, inflicting further losses on them. The following is a roundup of our valiant forces' activities for last night and today:

1. Our heroic Air Force aircraft carried out 40 combat missions today, inflicting important losses on enemy personnel, weapons, and equipment. Our aircraft then returned safely to base in God's care.

2. The brave helicopter gunship force, in carrying out 69 combat missions, continued its sorties against enemy positions and concentrations of enemy scoundrels, inflicting further losses on them. Our helicopter gunships then returned safely to base, praise be to God.

3. The Al-'Amiq Port force detected four enemy boats and opened fire on them, forcing them to flee toward the Iranian coast.

4. Six enemy personnel were killed; one vehicle carrying a 106-mm gun and four infantry positions were destroyed; and two RPG-7 launchers, one machinegun, and three rifles were found in the I Army Corps northern sector.

5. Four persons were killed and one observation post was destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

6. Five assorted positions, one observation post, and one vehicle were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

7. Two vehicles and one observation post were burned and destroyed and one ammunition dump was detonated in the II Army Corps central sector.

8. Three enemy personnel were killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

9. One weapons emplacement and two infantry positions were destroyed and one ammunition dump was detonated in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

10. Two vehicles were destroyed and their occupants killed in the sector of the I Special Army Corps, the Allahu Akbar Forces.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 12 August 1987

AFP Reports Bombed Reactor Secretly Reconstructed

AU121351 Paris AFP in English 1340 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Paris, Aug 12 (AFP) — Iraq's nuclear plant at Tamuz, destroyed in an Israeli air raid in June 1981, is being reconstructed secretly, the French satirical weekly the *Canard Enchaine* reported here Wednesday.

Work started in October 1986, the paper said.

Last week, the *Canard Enchaine* published a French Foreign Ministry telegram to the French ambassador in Baghdad whose contents, according to the paper, were "almost certain" proof that the French-built plant was being reconstructed.

Official sources here called the paper's comment "grotesque and ludicrous", affirming that the telegram referred to the rescheduling of Iraqi debts with France.

According to the *Canard Enchaine* work in the plant was so far confined to the reactor's concrete casing.

Other secret work in Tamuz was undertaken by European, and not French, companies, the paper added.

Shamir Interviewed on Hill Visit, Lavi, Sharon
TA121845 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by political correspondent Yig'al Goren in Shamir's office on 12 August — video recorded]

[Text] [Shamir] Charles Hill and I discussed ideas outside the international conference, which I do not regard as a tool to promote peace. I think that together with the United States we will find ways to pursue these other courses.

[Goren] Do you think that at the moment the United States is prepared to take a serious look at other alternatives, which is to say that it has somewhat cooled its enthusiasm over the international conference?

[Shamir] I am not prepared to speak for the United States.

[Goren] What about your impression?

[Shamir] It is clear that the United States is prepared to examine various avenues to promote peace, in which it is highly interested. Even with respect to the international conference, the United States has always said that it is prepared to examine to what extent such a conference can bring the possibility of direct negotiations any closer. So this was one way of examining this issue. It is my belief that Mr Hill's arrival here and his talks with me indicate that the United States is open to and seeking new ideas.

[Goren] Mr Prime Minister, is the notion of interim arrangements a viable solution right now, or could it serve as the beginning for a process?

[Shamir] Whatever it is, these are the ideas we discussed. As the saying goes, one is always better off thinking out ideas thoroughly before embarking on them.

[Goren] Mr Prime Minister, last night the U.S. State Department issued an unambiguous call for Israel to halt the Lavi project. What is your reaction to the U.S. announcement?

[Shamir] You should remember that we are constantly engaged in talks with the United States on everything pertaining to the Lavi project, in which the United States is a major partner. The Americans have always said that the decision on the Lavi should be in Israel's hands. I believe that we share this view and hold the same opinion: The Lavi decision must be made here and should be independent of all pressure. The Cabinet will discuss it on Sunday, and I believe that we will reach a decision. That decision will be wholly Israel's.

[Goren] Is there no danger that an Israeli decision which runs counter to the U.S. position might result in a serious crisis in the area of defense relations — aid and other such things — between the two countries?

[Shamir] I believe that this is a gross exaggeration. We are not looking for crises, nor is the United States looking for extraordinary difficulties. Such things have, after all, happened before as well.

[Goren] Could we continue this project even if the United States does not extend the same kind of financial aid to us as it used to?

[Shamir] We will discuss this. I do not think this issue is topical, but this, too, should be discussed.

[Goren] Finally, Mr Prime Minister, will you support a suggestion, raised over the last 24 hours, that a commission of inquiry on the war in Lebanon be set up?

[Shamir] God forbid! We have no need for any investigation of the past. I said as much a few years ago when the issue was broached, and I will firmly oppose bothering the country with issues or problems that the nation has no need to ponder.

[Goren] What is your reaction to the uproar Minister Sharon's speech last night has aroused? How do you view it?

[Shamir] I do not believe that an uproar has been created. All in all, Minister Sharon explained his moves and positions. For me there was not a lot that I did not know, but still there was room and justification for the address by Sharon, based on documents. I think we should make do with that.

[Goren] Does this not carry a political message, which is to say that perhaps Minister Sharon is issuing hints about the future by this move?

[Shamir] I do not think there is any political signal involved, apart from his desire to explain the truth.

Shamir Satisfied With Hill Visit, Jerusalem Talks
TA121522 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Report by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel]

[Text] On the eve of Charles Hill's visit to Jerusalem, contradictory versions have been heard in the offices of Shamir and Peres with regard to the goal of the mission. Today, at the end of this visit, we again heard different versions, this time regarding what the U.S. envoy said and did here. Each side sees things to its own advantage in this mission. If we compare these two versions to each other, then we see that the U.S. Administration is no longer putting pressure on Shamir about an international conference; but, at the same time, it is not abandoning its commitment to check out the possibility of convening this conference.

Today Yitzhaq Shamir presented Hill with the programs formulated in his office with regard to the continuation of the peace process. Hill promised that these proposals would be seriously examined with the sides involved. The Americans have also promised to try to obtain an agreement from King Husayn according to which any negotiations over peace would begin with a discussion on an interim settlement on the lines of autonomy, not on a repartition of borders. It seems that the U.S. Admin-

istration is trying to tempt Shamir into the peace process and to postpone to a later date the dispute over the conference.

Shamir's office today expressed satisfaction with the visit and its results. Shamir expressed hope that some of the ideas discussed during the talks will take a practical form in the very near future. Perhaps the most practical result of Hill's talks in Jerusalem is the possibility that very soon, maybe within a few weeks, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will come to the Middle East. Today Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir welcomed the expected visit; let us just recall that only a few months ago Shamir made every attempt to prevent a visit to Jerusalem by George Shultz.

Shamir, Peres Offices' Assessment

TA121617 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] The spokesman for the Prime Minister's Office has reported that possibilities for promoting efforts to achieve peace in the region were discussed during the meeting between Prime Minister Shamir and Secretary Shultz' emissary Charles Hill. The prime minister expressed the hope that some of the ideas broached will soon be implemented. The prime minister also explained his opposition to an international conference and the importance he attributes to alternative ways for direct negotiations. In the meeting, the prime minister raised the problem of the Soviet Jews in anticipation of U.S.-Soviet talks next month.

U.S. sources have told our correspondent Gid'on Remez that Charles Hill's visit to Israel is not aimed at detracting from anything that is already acceptable to the United States insofar as the peace process is concerned. Rather, the goal of the visit is to find out whether additional elements should be added.

Mr Peres' associates said that the Americans, too, are convinced that there is no substitute for an international conference and that it is unavoidable. Any addition that might be made to appease Prime Minister Shamir would not diminish this.

After his meeting with Mr Shamir, Mr Hill held talks with Foreign Ministry Political Director General Yosi Beilin.

'Utterly Conflicting' Views

TA121654 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1605 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz' emissary, who is now visiting Israel, wound up his talks with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this afternoon. Charles Hill then conferred with various members of the opposite side in the domestic political dispute. Our political affairs editor Gid'on Remez reports that, as throughout Hill's visit, this time, too, utterly conflicting reports were provided on the import of the talks.

[Begin recording] [Remez] It has been reported that the prime minister hopes that the alternatives to an international conference which he presented to Mr Hill will soon be implemented in reality here. Yet the impression gained by Alignment members, as well as Yosi Beilin, the Foreign Ministry's political director general, and Knesset Member Simcha Dinitz, whom Hill met after the final meeting with Shamir, formed completely different opinions.

[Dinitz] If Shultz had wanted, or thought, or if the United States had believed that the status quo should be sanctified, thus maintaining the ongoing stalemate, then the secretary of state would not have sent Mr Hill to Israel. At the same time, throughout our meeting, which lasted over 1 hour, I never heard Mr Hill mention any other practical, realistic alternative to initiate these direct negotiations, which are our goal, except through an international opening. I presume that other thoughts were brought to his attention during his visit here, mainly by Shamir's men, although I have no idea what those other thoughts and ideas may be. But as far as Hill is concerned, I did not observe that he was preoccupied with any other realistic alternative.

[Remez] Did he also say that Secretary Shultz' visit to the region to promote this activity is definite, awaiting only a final decision on the date?

[Dinitz] We never discussed the visit; however, I did hear him say that Secretary Shultz, after the completion of the U.S. Senate hearings on the Iran-contra affair, is now free and has in mind a rejuvenation of political momentum in various arenas, including the Middle East. I cannot rule out the possibility that this will also lead to a visit. Yet this was not discussed at our meeting. [end recording]

Political Editor on Hill Visit

TA121224 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1005 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz will apparently come to Israel within a few weeks. This was announced today by sources in the Prime Minister's Office following the second meeting between Yitzhaq Shamir and Charles Hill. Our political editor Gid'on Remez says that beyond this it is hard to find any agreement in Israel concerning the significance of Hill's visit:

[Begin recording] [Remez] Just as there were contradictory expectations on the eve of Hill's visit, now one can hear contradictory assessments on the results of his talks. One practical result has already been mentioned — Shultz' expected visit. There is also another sign regarding an expected increase of U.S. activity in the region: Moshe Arad, Israel's new ambassador in Washington, has already been recalled for consultations in Israel. It has been reported that Shamir is satisfied with the renewal of direct contact with Shultz. It is said in his office that the friendly talks gave expression to their mutual trust. Envoy Hill was a little more reserved following his second meeting with Shamir. He said that the talks were serious and responsible and were conducted in a satisfactory way.

[Hill, speaking in English] We had very serious and responsible talks with the prime minister on some very important issues and in a most satisfactory way. There is more thinking and more efforts to be undertaken, and we will be going on with this through Ambassador Pickering and Ambassador Cluverius, who will be following up on the matter.

[Remez] In the Foreign Ministry, where Hill is currently meeting with Political Director General Yosi Beilin, it has been confirmed that there is talk about a Shultz visit, but he only said that he will consider how to implement this idea.

However, the main question is whether the Americans have changed their position with regard to the international conference as the basis for the next move in the peace process. U.S. sources told me that Hill's visit was not for the purpose of detracting anything from what is acceptable by Washington, but, on the contrary, perhaps even to add something; that is, not to give up the idea of an international conference, but perhaps to add to it ingredients or promises to Israel that would be palatable to Shamir. However, in the Prime Minister's Office it is said that the prime minister now hopes, following the talks, that some of the ideas he presented to Hill as alternatives to the conference will be implemented in the near future. Among the ideas he raised, for example, is the theme which he has already brought up in Israel: to convene a limited regional conference.

Shamir's aides note that even Peres, in today's interview with the Voice of Israel, did not mention the conference by name. Peres' aides downplay this, saying that both we and the Americans currently know that there is no alternative to the conference now; no embellishments or further deals to pacify the prime minister can change this fact.

At the same time, however, it looks like Shultz sincerely wants to continue the peace efforts, to which he is now devoting renewed energy, with and not against Shamir. The main question now is whether this will be done by trying to convince Shamir to go to a conference — a thing that even Peres' associates do not regard possible — or by a U.S. change of direction. Apparently the answer is that this will be done by a little of both. [end recording]

Ari'el Sharon Defends 'Lebanon War' Decision

TA121510 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 12 Aug 87 pp 1, 10

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Benny Morris]

[Excerpts] Breaking four years of relative silence, Ari'el Sharon yesterday launched a campaign to "clear" his name and "defend" the Lebanon war with which it is identified.

The thrust of his marathon 200-minute lecture before a star-studded audience at Tel Aviv University was that the war was a success; and that it initially enjoyed wide political and military backing in Israel, and that each of the Army's moves was approved in advance by the Cabinet and the IDF brass. Sharon's speech was interupted at times by leftist heckling and raucous applause from Herutniks.

Burying Menahem Begin with repeated praise, Sharon shattered the charge that he had deceived the former prime minister and led him by the nose by repeatedly quoting Begin as leading his Cabinet colleagues into the war and then into its various stages. Sharon quoted at length, if selectively, from Cabinet protocols for the years 1979-83.

"I did not come here to respond to various charges. I have come to state the truth, to tell the things as they were — for the first time, yes, for the first time — on the fifth anniversary of the expulsion of the PLO terrorists from Beirut," he said, as he embarked on a detailed description of the countdown to the war. The expulsion, he repeatedly declared, was the high point and major objective of the war.

Sharon said yesterday that the Lebanon war was "a war of salvation, and I am proud to have been one of its organizers, a war against our main enemy — the Palestinian terrorism that has been fighting us for 100 years." [passage omitted]

In launching the war, the Begin government was only following in the footsteps of all the Labour-led governments that had preceded it, Sharon declared. [passage omitted]

The Lebanon war, unlike Israel's past wars, said Sharon, was the first to be run "from A to Z" by the Cabinet, which met and discussed options and moves twice daily. Objectives and targets were set out and debates for months before the first shots were fired. [sentence as published] It was also, said Sharon, the "first war in which all the objectives were achieved." The dead, he added, fell in "a just war" — though at no point during the lecture did Sharon mention the number of casualties.

Already in 1980, said Sharon, then Defence Minister 'Ezer Weizman told his Cabinet colleagues that the IDF had prepared a plan "to reach Beirut and to link up with the Christians."

That plan, he said, "in all essentials resembling the plan for Operation Peace for Galilee," was prepared by the General Staff in September 1979, and called for the conquest of south Lebanon up to "the Juniyah-Zahlah line" in order to basically change the situation in that country.

From the first, said Sharon, he had striven as defence minister for "a full solution" of the Lebanese-PLO problem: "I am against an implementation (of Operation Oranim [pine trees] — the IDF plan for invasion) in stages," Sharon quoted himself as saying in mid-1981.

In July 1981, PLO-IDF artillery duels across the border focused Sharon's and the General Staff's attention on the need for a radical solution of the northern border population as hostages." But "I was always against a war with Syria. I have always maintained that of all possible Israeli-Arab wars, war with Syria is likely to give us the least strategic benefit," explained Sharon.

From the end of 1981, said Sharon, he had repeatedly informed the General Staff and the IDF brass, including divisional and brigade-level commanders, that a war in Lebanon was in the offing, with its "major aim" being the "destruction of the PLO terror kingdom." Other aims of the operation, he told the General Staff in December 1981, would be "hitting the Syrians to cause a measure of Syrian withdrawal, placing the Galilee panhandle outside the range of artillery and rocket fire, and establishing a strong (Christian-led) regime in Beirut."

"The IDF knew full well months in advance the tendency (to go for an invasion) among the political echelon," said Sharon,

implicitly rebutting charges by former generals that the IDF brass before May-June 1982 had no inkling where Sharon was leading them. "It was clear that the Army would no longer (agree to) enter into artillery duels or be content with mere bombings," Sharon said.

In January 1982, Sharon recalled, he visited the Christian enclave and told the Phalangist leaders: "If there is a war, they will have to go into (Moslem West) Beirut...I told them, when they asked me what they should do: 'Try to prevent slow nibbling away at your enclave. If the Syrians attack you massively, we will come to your aid.' I pointed to the Bayt Miri heights and said: 'This height is important, take it and hold it. And get ready to enter West Beirut. Israel will not enter West Beirut, it's crowded, full of embassies, it's an Arab capital. but we will not initiate (the war). We will only react (to a terrorist provocation) with the aim of destroying the terrorists and curtailing the Syrian presence; we do not want a full-scale war with Syria.'"

Sharon then recalled a second meeting, with Phalangist leader Bashir al-Jumayyil and Begin. "Begin explained in what situation Israel would go to war. Begin told Al-Jumayyil that there was more or less a consensus (in Israel in support of the planned war). '(As many as) 105 out of 120 MK's [Knesset Members] will vote for it, but we need a clear provocation,' Begin told Al-Jumayyil,'" according to Sharon.

Sharon recalled adding that Israel would "surround Beirut from the south and north, and cut off the road to Zahlah. In the Al-Biqa' we will move northwards if the Syrians fight us."

To underline his point about the pre-war consensus, Sharon quoted Rabin as saying on April 6, 1982, that "after we enter Lebanon, we will be able to set up a (pro-Israel) government, if we stay there for four-to-six months."

At the end of May, 1982, Sharon visited Washington and told then Secretary of State Alexander Haig and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger that they should not be surprised by what could happen on the northern border. "I asked them: 'How many Jews have to die before it can be called "clear provocation"?' I did not ask the administration for the green light (for the invasion). Those who said that Haig gave (a green light) are wrong. In fact, Haig warned us against going into Lebanon, and he gave no green light," Sharon said.

The shooting by Palestinian terrorists of Ambassador Shlomo Argov in London on June 3, 1982, "only lit the fuse," said Sharon. "It was the excuse. The real reason for the war was the (PLO) threat to the north and the possibility of paralysis in the northern border settlements. That is why the identity of the would-be assassins was important (and it didn't matter whether they were PLO or not)."

At the Cabinet meeting the following day, Begin told his colleagues that they had to prepare to make a major decision about "going to the maximum." It is unthinkable that the wretches (menuvalim) should shoot our ambassador," Begin said, according to Sharon. Begin then quoted Lenin's statement: "We shall see who shall beat who."

The war at this stage was still not unavoidable, said Sharon. "It depended on whether the terrorists would shell our settlements (in retaliation for our air strikes)."

On June 5, 1982, recalled Sharon, the Cabinet agreed to Begin's proposal for a 40-km.-deep invasion. "What about Beirut?" asked then Deputy Prime Minister Simha Ehrlich. "It's beyond the picture," replied Sharon. "To go to Beirut will require a separate, specific decision," Begin replied, according to Sharon. But Begin pressed the ministers for a decision that night, lest the Americans intervene and prevent the invasion.

This was "an appropriate hour (she'at kosher), because of the world's preoccupation with the Falklands and the Iran-Iraq war," Begin reportedly argued.

That day, Sharon said, he ordered the Army to prepare for an invasion "as far as the Beirut-Damascus road, with a link-up with the Christians." But the Army was to try to do things so that the Syrians would not fight.

Sharon then described in detail the successive briefings he gave the Cabinet and the decisions the Cabinet took about the following days' operations and planning for further operations.

"The Cabinet was kept in the dark about nothing," he said.

He noted that several Labour MKs, including Mordekhay Gur and Yitzhaq Rabin, during the first days of the war, asked operational questions, seemingly pressing him, Sharon, to push the IDF up to the Beirut-Damascus road and to a link-up with the Phalangists.

Sharon said that he had "never opposed the withdrawal from Lebanon. Indeed, as early as October 1982 I proposed to Washington and Al-Jumayyil that we leave south Lebanon (north of the Al-Litani) but for five positions, with 400 men in them. But these proposals were not approved because (there were those) who wanted to make sure that nothing (favourable) would emerge from the war. That was the reason."

Peres Reacts to Sharon Speech

TA121343 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0405 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by political editor Gid'on Remez in Peres' residence and David Grossman in the studio — live]

[Excerpt] [Grossman] Mr Peres, last night Minister Sharon talked about the war in Lebanon for approximately 4 hours. I will not ask you to comment on all the points he made, but is he right in his chief contention that the Labor Party, too, knew of and approved all the moves of that war?

[Peres] Nothing of the kind. Incidentally, wars are judged by their outcomes, not in lectures. On 5 June [1982], we were summoned for a meeting with then Prime Minister Mr Menahem Begin. I believe Mr Shamir and Mr Sharon also attended that meeting. That was after the IDF had, in fact, already crossed the

border, and Mr Begin apologized for not having had the opportunity to summon the opposition earlier. We were told outright that this war was planned to last 3 or 4 days and to extend 40 km into Lebanon with the goal of moving the artillery farther away, and nothing more. In answer to questions from Mr Rabin and Mr Bar-Lev — they, too, came to the meeting with me — we were told that we would reach neither Beirut nor its environs. We were also told that the Syrians would be left alone. So after the deed was done, what really happened came to us as a complete surprise: Not only were we never told about it, but we were actually told the opposite. When Beirut first came under bombardment, I personally telephoned Mr Begin and learned that he was totally unaware that bombs were being dropped on Beirut. He told me that he would contact Sharon and check things out.

Now, look, the war was launched in a period of relative quiet along the Lebanese border and ended with Hizballah an active force in Lebanon in addition to the PLO, with Lebanon in ruins, and with no future foreseen; it weighs irreversibly heavily on Israel. It demanded such a heavy bloody cost — I do not wish to recall the number of victims and dead in that war. Among other things, it also cost $5.5 billion, according to cost estimates made by economists recently. Imagine if that $5.5 billion were spent in the Galilee now, what would the Galilee look like? Imagine that we had made no move in Lebanon and the situation that prevailed in June 1981 [as heard] would have remained unchanged to this very day! What gains did we score? What are the results? How can the outcome compare with the planning?

[Remez] If so, Mr Peres, then the Labor Party's support as shown in the first Knesset vote at the outset of the war must have been based on incomplete and inaccurate information you had, rather than on your projection of the war for as long as you thought it would last.

[Peres] I believe that the information given to us was accurate, but I also think that the war did not follow the same lines as the information brought to our attention. Thus, instead of a blitz operation, not really a war, with the aim of pushing the artillery farther away, as Mr Begin presented it, the war stretched to become a prolonged and bloody affair that upturned the delicate and miserable balance that had prevailed in Lebanon even before this, turning Lebanon into an impossible country.

[Remez] In hindsight, could one assume that the war could have been conducted within the limits of your initial assumptions, and that its extension to assume dimensions that finally shaped it could have been avoided?

[Peres] Beyond a doubt. You tell me: Can one derive any satisfaction from the fact that Hizballah is entrenched in West Beirut, kidnapping people? Is this any consolation to us? What kind of great achievement was this, that we substituted Hizballah for the PLO or vice versa? Besides, the PLO, too, is coming back there.

[Grossman] But, sir, Mr Sharon's statements cast a deep shadow over you. What do you intend to do by way of reaction?

[Peres] Look, first of all you have turned it into a major media event. What is it that actually happened? He gave a lecture and it lasted 3 or 4 hours. Why are you getting all worked up about it? This is all media hype. In truth, nothing happened. The facts have not changed. The war and its outcome have not changed. Fine, so there was a media event. So what?

[Remez] Do you regard the repeated demand for a commission of inquiry as practical or desirable?

[Peres] I think Mr Sharon's address last night augmented the argument for such a commission. I have always been against this, but if I ask myself whether the Arlozoroff or the Lebanon affair should be investigated, you know what my answer would be.

[Grossman] Indeed, but you claim this was a media event — and I am still trying to absorb that speech — but still, after all this was a war that claimed such a heavy price in lives, and yet the main figures that featured in that war still continue to hold senior public posts and are still conducting Israel's policy. So I fail to regard it as merely a media event.

[Peres] So I understand that you would be in favor of a commission of inquiry, and I say you have a point. [passage omitted]

Begin Declines Comment

TA130948 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 13 Aug 87 p 1

[Report by Ilan Shehori]

[Text] Former Prime Minister Menahem Begin says that as far as he is concerned, the time has not come to speak about the events of the Lebanon war. Consequently, for the time being he has decided not to react to the remarks made by Minister Ari'el Sharon at the Tel Aviv University Strategic Studies Institute on Tuesday.

Begin told *Ha'aretz* yesterday that he still has to study and examine the problems presented by Sharon in his speech before he can react to it.

"The time has not come for me to say what I have to say about this war. I am still not prepared for this. When I am prepared, I well react. At this point I have nothing more to say on this issue," Begin stated.

Justice Bach Sets Rules for Vanunu Testimony

TA121702 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Excerpt] The immunity of privileged communication [hisayon] on part of the evidence in Mordekhay Vanunu's trial was lifted today by Supreme Court Justice Gavri'el Bach, who read this decision to Vanunu and his lawyers a short while ago. Our correspondent 'Oz Shalah gives us the details:

[Begin recording] Justice Gavri'el Bach accepted most of the requests presented by the defense, which is expected to bring evidence on the way Vanunu was detained and on the way he arrived in Israel. Because another defense request has also been accepted, Mordekhay Vanunu will as of now be permitted to

testify on statements he made after his arrival in Israel — statements which the prosecution regards as admission of guilt. Vanunu will be allowed to try to disqualify this evidence.

Yet Vanunu will not be allowed to describe the events preceding the actual abduction. He will not be permitted to say in which country he was caught or where exactly that happened; he cannot specify who captured him or who guarded him. These details, says Justice Bach, are irrelevant and will only present difficulties in the course of the discussion.

Later in his decision, the justice reported that he had obtained some information without the presence of the defense counselors, submitted to him by prosecutor 'Uzi Hason, Shin Bet representatives, and representatives of the Dimona nuclear reactor. This formed the basis for his decision. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Energy Minister, Electric Company Board Meet

TA121740 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1605 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Energy Ministry and Israel Electricity Company work teams will soon see to the practical implementation of the decision limiting the franchise of the Jerusalem Electric Company. The energy minister met with the company's chairman of the board, as our correspondent Elihu Ben-On reports:

[Begin recording] [Ben-On] The members of the Jerusalem Electric Company's board of directors were summoned to the Energy and Infrastructure Ministry today to hear about the Cabinet's decision. As expected, Hanna al-Nasir, the chairman of the board, expressed his disappointment with this decision.

[Al-Nasir, speaking in English] I told the minister that we would have preferred that his ministry would have accepted our offer to leave all the settlements and Jewish quarter instead of minimizing the concession.

[Ben-On translates and continues] Thus, the company's board of directors accepts the new state of affairs and is getting ready for the changes. Among other measures, the company has sought the services of an economic consulting firm to examine ways to improve the company's financial situation and reduce its manpower.

This morning, the energy minister turned down the Jerusalem company's request for higher fees from the Arab consumers. It announced that if the company functions properly economically and commercially, its franchise would be extended to the year 2000. [end recording]

Jordan To Grant Representation to Refugee Camps

TA131051 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
13 Aug 87 p 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Jordan is preparing for new parliamentary elections, although no date has been set as yet. For the last few days, Jordan has been publicizing the voting areas and the location of the ballot boxes, a preparatory step toward general parliamentary elections. There is a new element in the upcoming elections — representation for the Palestinian refugee camps in parliament. A sharp dispute is developing over this between Jordan and the PLO, which is against this move.

Syrians on 'Maximum Alert' Due to Camp Sit-In
NC121216 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that Syrian forces stationed in and around West Beirut have been placed on maximum alert in the last 24 hours, particularly in the Shatila camp area. The Amal Movement has also alerted its gunmen to be prepared to confront Palestinian threats to turn a sit-in at the [Shatila] camp into an open strike supported by pro-'Arafat PLO elements, the Revolutionary Council [Abu Nidal's group], the Palestine Liberation Front, the PFLP, and the DFLP.

Reports say that the Syrian command in West Beirut has asked the anti-'Arafat Salavation Front to help foil the move at the Shatila camp, but the Front's attempts in this regard have so far failed. Those staging the sit-in have threatened an explosion in the Beirut camps situation if the siege of camps in Beirut and Tyre is not lifted and if they are not supplied with food.

Al-Jumayyil Endorses More Power for Shi'ite Sect
NC130608 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0430 GMT 13 Aug 87

[Text] In an interview with the Washington-based magazine *Lebanese Affairs*, President Amin al-Jumayyil has reiterated that he will not resign his post. He said: I have a clear concept of Lebanese affairs, and I will fight until the end of my term in office to achieve this concept.

In the interview, President al-Jumayyil noted: We are one people, and we must coexist. Every sect must support certain concessions and must offer more than seems possible. He added that a new formula in Lebanon should be based on equality in terms of all the state's entities, including the government, the Chamber of Deputies, the administration, and the judiciary. The government, the president affirmed, should represent all Lebanese.

In response to a question, President al-Jumayyil said that the Shi'ite sect deserves greater power in this new formula. I have introduced this idea in my proposals for reforms, the president added. The number of Shi'ite deputies will be increased, the Chamber speaker will enjoy more authority, and a new position for the Shi'ite sect will be created within government authority, he concluded.

Gap Between State Revenue, Expenditures Reported
NC120553 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0515 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Monetary statistics show that the state's annual revenue is estimated at 17 billion Lebanese pounds, while expenditures are estimated at 100 billion pounds. Approximately 45 billion pounds is spent for gasoline subsidies, 25 billion for electric fuel subsidies, and 8 billion for bread subsidies. In light of these figures, solutions must focus on the need to increase revenue through politically agreeable measures to save the Treasury from this imbalance crisis.

Fadlallah Blames Saudis for Mecca 'Massacre'
NC111435 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1415 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Hizballah spiritual leader Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, who returned from Mecca yesterday, has accused the Saudi security forces of firing at Iranian pilgrims. He described the incident as a veritable massacre.

Official, Iran Envoy View Beirut-Tehran Flights
NC121220 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Sami Sa'd, head of the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, today visited the Iranian ambassador in Beirut as an envoy of Walid Junblatt. They discussed the resumption of air traffic between Beirut and Tehran. Agreement was reached on preparing the papers necessary to resume flights.

Ba'th Party Member Shot Dead in South
NC121020 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
0915 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] The body of teacher 'Ali Ahmad 'Abdallah, a member of the Ba'th Party's southern command, was found with gunshot wounds in the head at 0800 today. The body was discovered in 'Abadllah's car at the Kafr Rumman intersection.

Israeli Military Movements 'Intensified' in South
NC131101 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 13 Aug 87

[Text] Our correspondent reported this morning that Israeli forces have intensified their military movements on land and sea and in the air. Tension is mounting in the liberated areas adjacent to the occupied zones as a result of Israeli bombardment. Kafra was subjected to shelling this morning from the occupation forces' positions in Tallat al-Huqban.

Statement on UN Human Rights Official's Mission

LD082029 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 8 Aug 87

[Statement on mission of Professor Felix Ermacora, UN Human Rights Commission special reporter, issued on 8 August in Kabul and by the UN Information Center in New York]

[Text] The special reporter for the UN Commission on Human Rights ended his visit to Afghanistan on 8 August 1987. The special reporter arrived in Kabul on 30 July 1987. The visit was carried out within the framework of his mission in accordance with Declaration No 58, dated 1987, of the Human Rights Commission, following an invitation in March 1987 by His Excellency 'Abdol Wakil, foreign affairs minister.

During his visit, the special reporter had meetings with government representatives from the Ministry of Justice; the Department of Returnees' Affairs; the Ministries of Nationalities and Tribal Affairs, National Economy [as heard], and Public Health: the Central Statistical Department; and the Ministries of State Security and the Interior.

He also held meetings with National Front employees and PDPA members in charge of work in various fields. He met with the head of the DRA Special Revolutionary Court and the deputy head of the Special Revolutionary Prosecutor's Office; representatives of trade unions; the National Reconciliation Commission; the National Council of Women; officials from Kabul University; ulema and theologians; the Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan; and representatives of tribes from the border provinces. Samples of weapons said to have been seized from opposition groups were shown to him.

The special reporter also visited places used for investigation and detention. In particular, he toured the central Pol-e Charkhi Prison and the Investigation Center of the State Security Ministry. He visited a number of hospitals, including those at Ibne Sina, Jamhorit, Sera Miasht, and Wazir Akbar Khan, and the Armed Forces Academy of Medical Science. The special reporter talked with a number of people who were released in April 1987 as a result of the amnesty.

The special reporter also visited Herat and Balkh Provinces and the area around Kabul where he met with local officials, representatives from the national reconciliation commissions, ulema and theologians, refugees who had returned, and members of self-defense groups. He also visited the prisons of Herat and Mazar-e Sharif.

Expressing appreciation for the comprehensive cooperation of the Afghan Government, the authorities, and the many people he met during his visit, the special reporter wishes to mention the following:

The authorities made the best possible efforts to implement the proposed agenda suggested by the special reporter to facilitate his visits to various regions, to talk to various people, and to draw up the desired documents in the course of conversations.

In line with his assignment, the special reporter will present a report to the General Assembly and then to the Human Rights Commission.

The special reporter wishes to say at this stage that in his view national reconciliation is seen as a positive step toward permanently restoring human rights throughout the country. The special reporter witnessed a number of measures implemented by the government and hopes that similar measures will be taken in the near future.

Emphasizing that the observance of human rights is the main point of his mission, the special reporter wishes to say that this visit is the beginning of a (?dialogue), and that its continuation and development will help the noble people of Afghanistan to fully achieve the right to self-determination.

Mujahidin Reportedly Shoot Down Bomber 3 Aug

BK130820 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 13 Aug 87

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin shot down a Soviet-Kabul bomber at (Wahi Shant) in Paktia Province on the 3d of this month. The crew was killed on the spot.

President's Address on 40th National Day
BK121715 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1645 GMT 12 Aug 87

[President R. Venkataraman's "broadcast on the eve of Independence Day"]

[Text] Friends, in my first address on the eve of Independence Day I wish to extend to all of you my warmest felicitations and good wishes. On the day that I assumed office I had the privilege of addressing my fellow citizens through their elected representatives in parliament. Today, I have the privilege of speaking to all of you directly and sharing with you some deeply-felt thoughts. We cannot but recall with gratitude on this anniversary of our independence the sufferings and sacrifices of those freedom fighters who participated in the struggle for national liberation. The first salvo for freedom was fired in 1857, 130 years ago, in the historic war of independence. This was followed by several movements each with its own distinct character, until Mahatma Gandhi arrived on the scene and led us, in an unique way, to freedom. To each and every one of those heroes of national history let us offer our reverential homage.

This is the fortieth year of our independence. I am happy that plans are under way to observe the anniversary not only in a spirit of rejoicing, but also with austere dignity and introspection. You are all aware, that even as the tricolor went up to herald the changeover, the horrors of partition and the agonies of uprooted masses tinged the new dawn with deep distress. The sagacious presence of Mahatma Gandhi, the humanistic leadership of Jawahar Lal Nehru, the doughty pragmatism of Sardar Patel and — above all — the solidarity and wisdom of the masses of the people of India, steadied the ship of state on its destined course. The sea was as rough as the route was uncharted, but we can look back with a legitimate pride on the great distance that has been traversed since then.

The most significant of our achievements is the success of the democratic form of governance in India. The wisdom of the founding fathers of our Constitution is amply demonstrated by the fact that the people of India have mastered the functioning of the system. No more is the patronizing phrase "democratic experiment" applied to India. India represents today no experiment but a proven model and example of a successful democracy. Nor is our democratic structure a purely political mechanism. It has shown, pioneeringly, an ability to help transform the living conditions of our people, in accordance with the popular mandate. India did not struggle for mere political freedom, the substitution of the white rulers by the brown, or the shifting of pomp and pageantry from aliens to nationals. We promised the people that freedom was only an instrument for improving the lot of the masses and not an end in itself.

Poet Subramania Bharati said that in the new social order if a single individual goes without food, we will destroy the entire world. We wanted to remove social and economic inequality and ensure the sovereign rights of every citizen.

We launched the ship of independent Bharat [India] with high hopes and deep dedication. Thanks to the acceptance of the concept of a planned economy by almost the entire country, we have fulfilled several five year plans. As a result, today, we are self-sufficient in food. Gone are the days when we used to look to other countries for food supply, food aid, and concessions. With an efficient public distribution system we can now meet the food requirements of our masses.

The industrial infrastructure has been firmed up and we are in the frontline of the newly independent countries in the production of basic industrial goods.

In the field of science and technology, we have won recognition in the scientific world and are on the threshold of a take off in this area. Progress, however, must relate to the lives of the people. If it does not interlock with their daily experiences, progress is only theoretical. It is here that we in India have a great reason for satisfaction. The indices of the quality of life show continuous and substained improvement. Major endemic diseases like malaria, small pox, and cholera have been controlled and, most telling of all statistics, life expectancy has improved from 32 years in 1951 to 55 years. With special attention being paid to immunization and maternal and child care, further gains are expected. Access to education has improved, particularly in rural areas and for disadvantaged classes. There are nations in the second and third worlds with per capita incomes that are higher than ours, thanks to a smaller population and larger natural resources. But if they are evaluated by the crucial test of the amenities for the masses like education, medical care, communications etc., it will be observed that India stands far ahead of them.

While the overall situation is sanguine, the unprecedented drought in almost every part of the country except the eastern region causes grave concern. This is the third successive year when the monsoon has disappointed us and the cumulative effect of all these threaten to cause misery to our masses who are all the time living on a narrow margin. Efforts to tackle the situation are urgent and I am glad that the government have realized the urgency and constituted a cabinet committee with the prime minister as chairman to deal with this trying situation. May I appeal to all of you to join hands with government in avoiding waste and conserving resources so as to meet the situation caused by the truancy of the monsoon.

Friends, I referred at the beginning of this address to the agony that accompanied the ecstasy of our independence. Now again, as we prepare to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of our independence, deep anxieties assail us.

Like an eclipse over the radiant sun at noon, communal violence and political terrorism cast their shadow over our lives. The cult of terrorism, being blind and heartless, attacks innocent people — simple men, women, and children who have committed no crime, offered no provocation. Never before has the nation faced such fierce onslaughts. While the principal responsibility to combat terrorist violence rests with the agencies of the state, the people of India must support the efforts of the state with poise and maturity. I know fully well that grave provocations are being offered to the traditional values of our society. But I would like to commend for your consideration the words of Jawahar Lal Nehru (and I quote) "The consequences of acting in passion are

always bad for an individual." But they are infinitely worse for a nation.

This is the time for the people of India, irrespective of religion, region or language, to rise above all sectarian loyalities to the ultimate loyalty towards the nation. I am confident that the ancient wisdom of our people which has bound them together in a unity that encompasses their diversities, will sustain us in the task of meeting the challenges that face us. There is no force, internal or external which seeks to disrupt our life and impede our progress, that we cannot meet if we remain united, confident, and disciplined. We must recapture the spirit of unity and involvement that marked our freedom struggle, linking the people of all parts of the country in a common endeavor. Let there be no doubt that the people of India have the capacity to forge unity and solidarity whenever the nation's interests so demand.

Friends, at a ceremony in Rajghat on August 16, handfuls of soil brought from different sthalas [places] of India's freedom movement will be mingled in one casket and thereafter returned to the various states of India, symbolizing the great trans-continental solidarity which underlay that momentous struggle. This gesture will vivify the truth that the freedom of India was wrought by the action of a people who functioned as one people with one resolve: freeing India from the yoke.

We have achieved only one objective, namely, winning freedom but we are still to reach the other goal of prosperity to the masses. In that sense our struggle is not over. We have to put our shoulders together and continue the struggle to rid the country of poverty. Let us rededicate ourselves to this great and noble task. Jai Hind [Long Live India].

Minister Explains Stand, Bofors Reply on Gun Deal

BK121645 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] The Swedish armaments company, Bofors, has declared that no commission was paid to any Indian citizen or Indian company while negotiating the sale of 155-mm field guns to India. In its latest communication to the Government of India, it reiterated that no middlemen were involved. The company said the contract was won in direct international competition and as a result of direct negotiations with the Government of India.

The contents of the letter were disclosed by the defense minister, Mr K.C. Pant, in the Rajya Sabha today soon after the minister of state for defense, Mr Shiv Raj Patil, completed his reply to the debate on the official motion for the establishment of a joint parliamentary committee to probe into the Bofors gun deal. The House later adopted the motion by a voice vote, while the entire opposition, barring AIADMK [All India Anna DMK] and the National Conference, staged a walkout. All the 15 amendments moved by the opposition were rejected.

The motion for the setting up of the 30-member joint parliamentary committee was already approved by the Lok Sabha. Giving details, Mr Pant said that in the earlier interim reply, Bofors had asked for some more time to enable them to send the final reply. The Bofors have now said in a letter that in order not to come into conflict with the request of the Government of India about any middleman, the company terminated their earlier international consultancy agreement. Winding-up costs were, however, paid to some firms. They asserted that the termination costs were not paid to any Indian or Indian company consequently, including any member of the Indian Government or any other government official. They regretted the inconvenince to those parties who had falsely been alleged in the news media. Bofors also said that the termination costs had no effect or influence on the total value of the gun deal.

Mr Pant said that the government has nothing to hide and is interested in finding the truth. He called upon the opposition to join the committee without any reservation.

Earlier, the minister of state, Mr Shiv Raj Patil, made a fervent appeal to the opposition to reconsider their stand, as most of their suggestions were accepted by the government. He said the rules can be devised by the committee itself in consultation with the speaker. They are free to send a subcommittee abroad for collecting evidence. If any minister wants to give evidence, he is free to do so. The Official Secrets Act will not come in the way, and the government is prepared to extend all help to the joint committee.

The minister explained at length that the contract with the Swedish firm has many built-in safeguards, not only for the transfer of technology but also buy-back arrangements. He rejected the demand for canceling the contract.

Envoy in Colombo Says Troops To Return After Job Done

BK130630 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] The Tamil Nadu food minister, Mr S. Ramachandran, today held discussions with the minister of state for external affairs, Mr K. Natwar Singh, on various aspects of the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lankan accord. Mr Ramachandran is in New Delhi to work out with the External Affairs Ministry measures to put into operation various provisions of the agreement. The Indian high commissioner in Colombo, Mr J.N. Dixit, has spoken about the presence of peacekeeping force in Sri Lanka. We bring you excerpts from the interview.

[Begin recording] The Indian troops have come here on a very specific, formal invitation from the Government of Sri Lanka, under Paragraph 216 and (?its) subparagraphs of the Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement. And I do know that there are apprehensions on the part of Sinhalese that we came to stay here too long. The Tamil side feels that we may stay here too short time and therefore their security will be affected. But the basic point is that the Indian troops are here to discharge certain obligations specifically assigned to them under the agreement.

The prime minister of India, and, more important, the president of Sri Lanka will decide when the Indian troops have completed those tasks. When those tasks are completed, it is my assessment

that the president of Sri Lanka will get in touch with the prime minister of India and decide when that they should go back.

As far as the dates are concerned, different newspapers have reported in a different manner about what his excellency the president of Sri Lanka has said. But the basic point which he has made in all his interviews is that the peacekeeping force shall complete the tasks of peace which it has to perform, and at which point he will tell the Government of India that the Indian troops are no longer necessary. And at that point of time — as my prime minister, Mr Gandhi, very clearly said on his return from Colombo on 30 July last — that when the Indian forces have completed the tasks stipulated under the agreement and when the president of Sri Lanka asks the Government of India to withdraw the troops, India will withdraw the troops.

In any case, I must recall to you a very important tradition of the Indian Armed Forces. Under different circumstances our Armed Forces have gone to different countries, but it is to be noted that Indian troops have always come back. They have not stayed back indefinitely wherever they have gone. They have only gone on specific assignments. They have fulfilled them and come back. [end recording]

4 Police Guarding Editor's Home Killed in Punjab
BK130551 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi
0530 GMT 13 Aug 87

[Text] Four bullet-riddled bodies of police guards deployed at the residence of a managing editor of a Punjabi daily in Jullunder were recovered this morning. Some shopkeepers of the area said that they had heard gunshots around midnight, but only the weapons of these policemen were found then. Police are investigating the matter.

Floods Ravage Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, Sikkim
BK130358 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 13 Aug 87

[Text] There is no let up in the flood fury ravaging the east and northeastern parts of the country. Over 12 million people in Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, and Sikkim are in the grip of heavy floods.

In Assam, the Army was called out in Dibrugarh, Sibsagar, and Jorhat Districts to help the relief and rescue operations. Train services between Assam and the rest of the country remained snapped for the 3d day today. The central team visited the worst affected areas to make an on the spot study of the situation.

In West Bengal, the situation continues to be critical, as all major rivers crossed the danger mark. In Bihar, the swelling (Kamalabalan) inundated more areas of Darbhanga and Madhubani Districts, and the capital Patna is threatened by the menacingly rising Punpun.

Sikkim remained cut off from the rest of the country for the 4th day yesterday following disruption of road communications caused by rains and landslides.

Oil Pipeline To Soviet Union Ready in 3 Months

LD121726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] During a news conference today, Kazempur-Ardabili, the deputy oil minister for international and commercial affairs, said that the incident of the *Texaco Carribean* tanker hitting a mine while carrying Iranian oil near the port of Al-Fujayrah may be regarded as part of a plot to create insecurity in the Persian Gulf with the aim of reinforcing the U.S. presence there and encouraging its allies to do the same.

The deputy oil minister asserted that the Persian Gulf crises may be short-lived because the world cannot tolerate a halt in the export of Persian Gulf oil. With regard to securing a market for Iran's oil exports, Kazempur-Ardabili said that all of Iran's oil under its OPEC quota is sold in many ways on the world market. At present, more than 40 firms and 20 different governments by Iranianoil. He added: We have extended our export marketing activity to five regions in the world. Each region buys between 20 to 25 percent of our oil. Due to our efforts, none of Iran's oil purchasers buys more than 10 percent of our oil. Therefore, none of them alone plays a decisive role in Iran's oil deals.

The deputy oil minister reported that the conversion of Iran's gas export pipeline to the Soviet Union to carry oil exports has been agreed upon at a political level between the two countries. At most, 3 months are needed to finish the technical work to ensure that it will be ready to carry Iran's oil for export to the Black Sea via Soviet territory.

Velayati Dismisses UN Resolution as 'Unjust'

LD121902 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] In reply to a note from the UN secretary general dated 20 July 1987, Mr Velayati, our foreign affairs minister, sent a letter to the UN secretary general this afternoon. Part of this letter states:

The contents of UN Resolution No 598 have been studied. The motivations and methods that have gone into the preparation of this resolution and the positions adopted by the resolution itself demonstrate that the Security Council has resorted to its unjustifiable and unjust positions of the past. That the victors of World War II are able to establish their hegemony over the world and to direct events to suit their own interests, through their decisions and behind-the-scenes conspiracies and their insistence on imposing their views on the Security Council, is an old and defunct concept.

For those of us who, from the beginning of the Iraqi regime's aggression, have witnessed the latest in injustices and politicking by the permament members of the UN Security Council, this new decision reached in the resolution is neither surprising nor important. Rather, it is shameful for the Security Council to become a toy and a tool for carrying out the designs of the present U.S. Administration. The U.S. Government has placed all its political facilities at the disposal of the aggressor Iraqi regime so that it can consolidate its influence in that country and in those countries supporting Iraq.

However, the truth is that the present U.S. Administration, which was unable to justify either domestically or at the level of relations with countries that support Iraq its political machinations as revealed by what became known as the McFarlane disgrace, needs a new political move to maintain its control and to continue its Presidential rule.

Under these circumstances, the Security Council's subservience to the expedient, political machinations of the United States testifies to a fundamental weakness and a lack of competence on the part of this pillar [rukn] of the United Nations in performing the sensitive role that it is responsible for performing. In the latest incitement, the United States succeeded in presenting to the Security Council the precise viewpoints and stances of Iraq in an illogical, imbalanced, and impractical package. The United States, by drawing up and following this resolution, has tried to strengthen its influence in Iraq and in countries supporting Iraq.

Evidently, the United States is boasting that it has been able to drag along the Iraqi foreign minister to express his gratitude and humility in the United Nations and in the U.S. legislature. However, the dangerous game that the United States has instigated in the Persian Gulf in the wake of this resolution will culminate in unpredictable tensions that, before anything else, will boomerang against the United States and the countries in the region that support Iraq.

Velayati Letter Withdrawn

LD121906 Kuwait KUNA in English 1809 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] United Nations, Aug 12 (KUNA) — Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar convinced Iran Wednesday to withdraw a letter containing a blistering attack on the Security Council and the United States for its handling of the Gulf war, a U.N. spokesman said Wednesday.

Commenting on a meeting between the secretary-general and Iranian Ambassador Seyyed Rajai'e-Khorassani, the spokesman confirmed that a letter by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati was discussed and that after the discussion Rejai'e-Khorassani decided "not to present it at this time and to consider it further."

Sources told KUNA Wednesday the tone of the letter was so bitter and written in such undiplomatic language that the secretary-general thought it was inappropriate for distribution as an official U.N. document.

Questioned on the content of the two-page letter, which was to have been the covering letter to Velayati's five-page official response to the Council's July 20 cease-fire resolution, the spokesman, Joe Sils, said he had no further comment.

Rejai'e-Khorassani agreed to replace the letter with a shorter version, the spokesman said.

Tehran Warns UK, France Over Gulf Naval Presence

LD121405 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1107 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Today's commentary deals with the agreement of Britain and France to dispatch forces to the Persian Gulf.

Shipping sources in the Persian Gulf announced yesterday that the Omani Navy has recently discovered four mines in the waters of Al-Fujayrah port. The mines were found in an area where a tanker carrying Iranian oil recently hit a mine and was damaged. At the same time, contrary to their earlier decision, Britain and France announced that they are going to dispatch minesweepers to the Persian Gulf. In another development, the Kuwaiti ships being escorted by U.S. warships recently were delivered to the Kuwaiti Government. In any case, the discovery of new mines near the coast of Al-Fujayrah has apparently paved the way for the British and French minesweepers to enter the region. Probably, in the near future, more warships will be sent to the Persian Gulf region under the excuse of maintaining security.

All these events are taking place at a time when the Iraqi regime has resumed its atrocities of attacking our country's industrial and oil installations after a 25-day respite. Therefore, it seems that by concentrating their military means and equipment in the Persian Gulf, Western governments are planning to offer practical assistance to Reagan's government to escort Kuwaiti ships and increase pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran. Despite the reality of this policy, however, several Western governments are trying to conceal the degree of their coordination and agreement with Washington's aggressive policies. London's positive response to Kuwait's request to fly the British flag on ships carrying Kuwaiti oil and the simultaneous presence and reinforcement of the British and French warships in the Persian Gulf region have proved in practice that, despite their claim of not wanting to intervene in the Persian Gulf, Britain and France have taken some effective steps to support the aggressive policies of Reagan's Government. It is interesting to note that British and French minesweepers are entering the region at a time when the United States is experiencing major difficulties in escorting Kuwaiti ships because Washington has little access to minesweepers. According to U.S. officials, their mine-hunting helicopters will not be very effective practical minesweepers.

On the one hand, the agreement by France and Britain to dispatch mineseepers to the Persian Gulf shows unity among the arrogant powers in confronting the Islamic Republic of Iran. On the other hand, it demonstrates the weakness and helplessness of the U.S. Government. Washington's plea to Western governments to send minesweepers to the Gulf proves that the Reagan Government is too weak to detect and explode the mines there by itself. Therefore, it cannot make the shipping lines safe for its own warships or for the Kuwaiti tankers and was forced to aks its allies to send their minesweepers.

As past experience has shown, the ever-increasing support of Western governments for Washington's cruel policies and the bared teeth and claws of the arrogant front in the Persian Gulf will not ultimately change the dangerous situation facing the U.S. forces. The Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to repulse these aggressions decisively should the Iraqi regime continue its atrocities. As stated previously, in order to achieve this objective, no country's flag will enjoy any political considerations. If the British and French Governments intend to side with the U.S. forces in order to assist the Reagan Government in executing its aggressive policies, we are prepared to repeat the events of Lebanon that led to the disgraceful removal of the multinational forces.

Khomeyni's Son Said To Meet U.S., Israeli Groups

LD130944 Kuwait KUNA in English 0908 GMT 13 Aug 87

[Text] Geneva, Aug 13 (KUNA) — The son of Iran's Ayatollah Khomeyni, Ahmad, had in recent days been conducting secret talks in Geneva with a delegation from the U.S. and Israel, the local newspaper *La Suisse* reported Thursday. The meetings, held in [words indistinct] Geneva hotels, had been arranged for two reasons — to keep open negotiating channels to reduce Gulf tensions, and to negotiate new secret arms sales, the paper claimed.

The respected Geneva daily quoted what it said were well informed West German sources as providing the information for the story. It named the two top-class hotels in which the meetings were understood to have been held, and said that in addition to Ahmad Khomeyni, the Iranian delegation had included the personal secretary of the speaker of the Parliament Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The American delegation had comprised "private" non-official members who were accompanied by Israeli "advisers", it went on. The presence of the Israelis was explained by Tehran's need to acquire new armaments for the war with Iraq, *La Suisse* stated. The paper stressed that the Geneva talks were "preliminary" in nature, without any official status.

The Swiss Foreign Affairs Department and the Justice and Police Department had refused to confirm or deny any knowledge of the claimed presence in Switzerland of Ahmad Khomeyni, the paper said.

The source for the story was not a member of any opposition Iranian movement, but the paper had been put in contact with this source by an Iranian refugee, *La Suisse* acknowledged.

Khomeyni Appoints Revolution Committees Commander

LD131121 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Aug 87

[Text] In response to a request from the commanders and officials of the Islamic revolution committees about the appointment of a representative by his holiness the imam in that revolutionary organization, Imam Khomeyni, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, issued a decree today appointing Serajaddin Musavi, the commander in chief of Islamic revolution committees, as his representative to that organization. The text of the imam of the ummah's decree is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. My dear children, the heroic commanders, officials, and members of Islamic revolution committees throughout the country, may God Almighty assist you: Islamic revolution committees are a revolutionary organization which emerged from the ranks of the Muslim people and which were formed in the days prior to the victory of the Islamic revolution. After the revolution, resistance cells were immediately established throughout the country. They protected Islam and the revolution, bringing joy to the Muslims and grief to the enemies of Islam and the country. I express my thanks for the efforts of the brave and valiant guards of the committees.

As you have asked me to appoint a representative in that organization, I hereby appoint His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Serajaddin Musavi, may God grant him assistance, as the commander of the Islamic revolution committees. He is an experienced person who endured many hardships both before and after the revolution. He will be my representative in that organization. I beseech God for his success and for the success of all the brave guards of the Islamic revolution committees.

[Signed] Ruhollah Musavi al-Khomeyni, 13 August 1987

Khomeyni Bureau Replies to Condolence Messages
LD111226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Imam Khomeyni's Bureau has issued a statement replying to the messages of condolences and congratulations received from various strata of the nation, state and military officials, different organs and establishments inside and outside the country, and religious minorities in connection with the barbaric attack of the Al Sa'ud regime on the ranks of the pilgrims of God's house and their massacre. The text of the statement is as follows:

In His exalted name. Following the tragic news of the barbaric attack of the fascist Saudi regime on the pilgrims of God's house, which rolled hundreds of bloodied innocent, Muslim, Iranian and non-Iranian pilgrims into the dust on charges of demonstrating their vigilance and disavowing the infidels, many telegrams and messages of congratulations were received from the dear and courageous people, esteemed state and military figures, organizations, establishments, religious minorities, and other groups inside and outside the country, addressed to his holiness the imam -- may his lofty shadow never shorten.

While announcing his holiness' gratitude to everyone involved for their congratulations and condolences, this Bureau apologizes for being unable to send individual replies in view of the many messages received.

We take this opportunity, once again, to convey our sympathy to all the dear families of the martyrs, and to the disabled and wounded in this unprecedented and horrific tragedy.

We beseech Almighty God to grant a speedy victory to Islam against global blasphemy and to uproot it and its mercenary agents from Islamic countries.

Khashuqji Says U.S. Planned To Assassinate Khomeyni
NC121751 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] 'Adnan Khashuqji, Saudi mediator in the sale of U.S. weapons to Iran, has stated that the United States had planned to assassinate Khomeyni by putting something in his cup of tea so that power could be transferred to someone else. This was after the United States had begun its contacts with Iran. Khashuqji said that Egypt had participated in the early stages of the discussions which led to the sale of U.S. weapons to Tehran.

[The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic at 1545 GMT on 12 August in a similar report adds: "Saudi businessman 'Adnan Khashuqji has revealed to Kuwaiti media that the United States had in the past prepared a plan to assassinate Ayatollah Khomeyni by putting poison in his food. He did not give any further details."]

Karrubi Reportedly Prevented From Visiting Medina
LD121238 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] As part of its continued obstructionism against the affairs of the Iranian pilgrims, the Saudi regime has prevented the representative of the imam and the supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims from traveling to holy Medina. Our correspondent in Saudi Arabia reports:

As part of its obstructionism against the affairs of Iranian pilgrims, the Saudi regime has prevented the imam's representative and the supervisor of the Iranian pilgrims from traveling to holy Medina. Mr Karrubi, who used to go to Medina to supervise the Iranian pilgrims every year after completing the hajj rites before the arrival of the glorious 'Id al-Ghadir, has now encountered an obstacle to his Medina trip due to the formal declaration of the Saudi authorities opposing his trip.

In addition, the Afghan pilgrims participating in the hajj rites have declared their hatred of the Saudi regime's shameful act by sending the following message to the imam of the ummah: To the exalted presence of His Emminence Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution. We express our congratulations and condolences on the occasion of the martrydom of a number of the pilgrims to the holy house of God, including the Afghan mujahidin who participated in the disavowal march. They were martyred in the holy month by the rulers of the house of Al Sa'ud in the secure city of God, close to the shrine of the holy house of God. We hope that the holy shrines are liberated from the clutches of the tyrant rulers of the house of Al Sa'ud and that they will be administered by Muslims of the whole world.

Another part of this message says: O Imam. On your orders we voiced our hatred of injustice and tyranny. We hope that we are faithful soldiers guarding the trench of the Islamic revolution and eager to shed our blood in order to establish the government of divine justice under your leadership and lordship in Islamic lands, especially in the victimized country of Afghanistan.

In conclusion, the Afghan pilgrims participating in the hajj rites expressed their utmost hatred for the shameful act of the house of Al Sa'ud. They also expressed sympathy for the survivors of the martyrs of the catastrophic Black Friday in Mecca and wished long life for the great leader of the Islamic revolution.

India's Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

LD111902 Tehran IRNA in English 1851 GMT 11 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 11, IRNA — Deputy Indian Foreign Minister A.S. Gonsalves arrived here Tuesday night for an official visit and talks with Iranian officials on Tehran-New Delhi political and economic relations as well as regional and international issues.

Asked about recent developments in the Persian Gulf, Gonsalves replied to reporters at Tehran airport that the New Delhi government is concerned over the tension in the Persian Gulf caused by the presence of the superpowers' naval fleet and that he would discuss the issue with Iranian officials.

Meets With Besharati

LD121940 Tehran IRNA in English 1904 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug 12 IRNA — Acting Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati today reiterated that Iran will decisively counter any mischievous acts by Iraq and the U.S. or any other power.

"We are for tranquility in the region but the superpowers and particularly the U.S. want to create tension. We must try to eliminate America's military presence in the Persian Gulf," Besharati told visiting Indian Deputy Foreign Minister A.S. Gonsalves here today.

On relations with India, Besharati said the two countries enjoyed long-standing historical and traditional ties. "We have always tried to improve these relations in words and in practice," he said.

Besharati also expressed hope that Gonsalves' visit here would help further improve mutual ties.

The Indian official said in response that he believed relations between the two countries must be extensive because "we are from two great civilizations."

He said the Iranian revolution had helped further strengthen the friendship between the two countries. He said Iran and India had been turned to independent states from the past colonialist system.

"Therefore, the foundation for mutual relations is more firm and your revolution further strengthens these relations," the Indian official told Besharati.

"For this reason we want to improve our economic ties with you and my visit here is to this end," he said. Gonsalves also said India respects Muslims in India.

Holds Talks With Velayati

LD131248 Tehran IRAN in English 1210 GMT 13 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 13, IRNA — Visiting Indian Deputy External Affairs Minister A.S. Gonsalves held talks with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Thursday discussing the Persian Gulf situation and Tehran-New Delhi relations.

Referring to the Persian Gulf crisis Velayati said that the military presence of the U.S. and a number of Western countries in the region would only help heighten the existing tension. The foreign minister noted that the Islamic Republic is determined to confront foreign intervention and any move which would aggravate the situation in the Persian Gulf.

As for the U.N. Security Council resolution on the Iraqi-imposed war, Velayati said since the resolution has not identified the aggressor, it is not acceptable to the Islamic Republic. It is in fact an 'American plan', he added.

Commenting on mutual relations, Velayati said that there are various fields for expansion of Tehran-New Delhi relations.

Gonsalves, referring to the U.S. military presence in the region, described the situation in the Persian Gulf as 'very sensitive'. The Indian deputy external affairs minister described the Security Council decision as 'irrational' because he said it was made without knowledge of other member states of the Council. The Indian official called for expansion of Iran-India relations.

Pakistani Official Meets Deputy Foreign Minister

NC100637 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 10 Aug 87

[Text] Mr Arif, an official from the Pakistani Embassy in Tehran, met with our deputy foreign minister for cultural and consular affairs yesterday. During this meeting, the latter expressed the hope that cultural relations between Iran and Pakistan will be further expanded.

Commenting on U.S. efforts to spread discord and conflict among Islamic countries and Muslims, our deputy foreign minister for cultural and consular affairs said: The U.S. plot to spread discord between Shi'ites and Sunnis is more dangerous than other plots by the great satan. The Bloody Friday incident in Mecca was a U.S. effort to create discord and tension in the world of Islam. He also pointed out that the holy month of Muharram is approaching. He called for serious efforts by Pakistani officials to confront plots by global arrogance designed to cause discord among the world's Muslims.

During this meeting, the Pakistani Embassy official referred to the Mecca incidents and said: President Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Junejo of Pakistan have conveyed their condolences for this incident. The Pakistani Embassy in Iran also expresses its sympathies to the Muslim Iranian nation. He voiced the hope that relations between Iran and Pakistan will continue to expand day by day and that the two countries will unite against the plots by global arrogance that are aimed at spreading discord.

Spokesman Denies Al-Basrah, Qal'at Dizah Shelled

LD121727 Tehran IRNA in English 1713 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 12 IRNA — Iran today categorically denied claims by the Baghdad regime that Iranian artillery had shelled the city of Al-Basrah and the town of Qal'at Dizah.

A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) told IRNA today that Al-Basrah and Qal'at Dizah had not been shelled over the past few days. "The Iraqi claims are mere lies," he said.

The spokesman reminded however that Qal'at Dizah was a military zone and that the Iraqi regime had stationed its long-range artillery west of the town to shell civilian quarters in the Islamic Republic. However, the spokesman stressed, Iran had so far refrained from shelling the town. "We have not fired a single shell on Al-Basrah as well," he said.

Mecca 'Avengers' Convoy Leaves From Yazd for Fronts

NC120539 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] According to a Central news Unit report, on the eve of the auspicious 'Id-e Ghadir-e Khom and the anniversary of the formation of the Al-Ghadir Brigade, a Ghadir convoy called the "Vanguards of the Avengers of the Holy Mecca Tragedy," consisting of a large number of Basiji volunteers, left from Yazd for the fronts of light after a special ceremony.

Gulf 'Defenders' Convoy Departs

NC120805 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that in suport of the "Defenders of the Persian Gulf" and the large-scale "Martyrdom" maneuvers, seven divisions of trained and combat-specialized forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, Basiji, and tribal forces of Bakhtaran Province have organized a spectacular march from the city's Ayatollah Borujerdi Mosque, once again displaying their combat strength to confront U.S. plots.

At the end of this march, a group of trained, combat-specialized, and popular forces called the "Second Convoy of the Persian Gulf Defenders" was seen off warmly by the people, leaving for the fronts of the war of good against evil to join other combatants of Islam.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Recent Peshmerga Operations

LD121306 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] According to a report from the Ramadan Headquarters, the center for irregular warfare of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Hezbollah Peshmerga of the Iraqi Kurds carried out a number of operations 60 kilometers deep inside Iraqi territory in Irbil Province in the last few days. They inflicted heavy casualties and damages on the Ba'thist-Zionist enemy.

The report states: The Peshmerga killed one of the members of the Iraqi regime's security force identified as Davud Alvan Ahmad who was attached to the intelligence unit of the Rawanduz Division. They seized his weapon and documents.

Another report from Ramadan Headquarters states: A number of Kurdish Hezbollah Peshmerga attacked the bases of the Ba'thist enemy on the Biyanah-Jassan-(Beig-Alaneh) Highway to Sarrakan and Diyanah — all situated in the Irbil Province of Iraq. They destroyed these bases and killed or wounded 41 Ba'thists.

According to this report, the Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga killed or wounded 25 members of the Iraqi regime's forces in surprise attacks along the route to Irbil Province.

At the end of a series of operations, a total of 41 Saddamists were killed and 36 others were wounded.

Communique No 2,926

LD121707 Tehran IRNA in English 1701 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 12, IRNA — Heavy artillery fire of Iranian combatants on Iraqi positions and strongholds in western fronts particularly west of Maymak heights inflicted considerable losses and casualties on the enemy Tuesday and Wednesday, said a military communique here today.

Joint Staff communique number 2926 added that movements of Iraqi motorized columns as well as their relocation activities were checked by Muslim combatants in Mehran, Helaleh, Zurbatiyah and Varmahraz [spelling as received] regions of the western fronts.

In the northern theaters, artillery and tank fire of the Muslim forces set afire and destroyed several fuel tanks, munitions depots and heavy and light vehicles killing a number of enemy troops.

An Iraqi patrol unit came under Iranian artillery fire in a southern operational region Tuesday night and was forced to flee from the region sustaining some casualties. Heavy losses were also inflicted on enemy motorized columns in Sayyid Sadiq on the same day.

Noting that attempted reconnaissance operations of Iraqi warplanes and helicopters were foiled in Sardasht operational region, the communique said an Iraqi anti-aircraft gun together with 10 gun emplacements and watch posts and two military vehicles of enemy troops were destroyed by Iranian Gendarmerie Forces Tuesday.

Iranian naval forces Tuesday allowed two commercial ships, to which had recently been escorted to one of southern ports for thorough inspection because of being suspicious, to continue their voyage. [sentence as received]

1,300 Iraqi Casualties Noted

LD121755 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Four commando and infantry battalions of the Ba'th Army suffered up to 70-80 percent casualties during the smashing of an enemy counterattack on the Bolbast Heights. A report received from the General Staff Headquarters of the three arms of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps says that by foiling the enemy's counterattack on the sensitive Bolbast Heights in the "Nasr-7" operational sector, the four regrouped battalions of the 18th and 5th Army Commando Division sustained casualties of up to 80 percent, and the 2d and 3d Battalions of the 18th Army Division sustained casualties of nearly 70 percent.

In repelling this counterattack, which continued until noon today, more than 1,300 troops of the Ba'th Armed Forces were either killed or wounded. Colonel Fariq Ahmad Birqish, along with numerousother officers and NCO's, were among the dead.

In these operations dozens of enemy troops were also captured by the fighters of Islam. Up to now, 30 of them have been evacuated behind the fronts.

Guards Down 4 Iraqi Gunships

LD131055 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Aug 87

[Text] The Joint Staff of the three forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC] has announced the following: This morning four helicopter gunships belonging to the Iraqi Army were targeted and downed over the Dopazah heights in the "Nasr-7" operational theater. They were shot down by the air defense of the Ground Forces of the IRGC.

During yesterday's operations, 15 tanks and personnel carriers and 30 other vehicles of the Iraqi regime's forces were destroyed and a number of their personnel killed or wounded.

2 Indian Officers Reportedly Killed in Jaffna

BK121554 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, two members of the peacekeeping force in Jaffna were killed and two others wounded when they were caught in a booby trap during a mine clearance operation outside the Jaffna Fort today.

Agency reports quoting a spokesman of the Indian High Commission in Colombo say that Major Dilip Singh and Naik Subedar Mukund Rao were killed in the explosion, while Lieutenant Pankaj Vikram and Naik Subedar Dayanand were injured.

Proscription of Parties Renouncing Violence Revoked

LD121922 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1900 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] The Sri Lankan Cabinet today decided to revoke the proscription of any political party or organization which publicly gives up the path of violence.

The Cabinet also announced an amnesty to those who had stolen arms or were illegally in possession of arms if they surrender the weapons to the nearest police station before the 10th of next month.

EPRLF, LTTE Dispute Delays Surrender of Weapons

BK121154 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] The handing over of weapons has commenced in Batticaloa. The leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in Batticaloa, Aruna, handed over several weapons yesterday to the authorities.

The handing over of weapons by the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] has not started so far due to a dispute with the LTTE. The EPRLF has accused the LTTE of kidnapping 15 of their members in Batticaloa and has demanded their immediate release before they hand over their weapons. Madras reports that the group had been released.

TULF Expected To Contest Provincial Elections

BK130325 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0208 GMT 13 Aug 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Aug 12 (*Lanka Puwath*) — Tamil United Liberation Front (TULF) members who are now in India are to return to Sri Lanka, the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation (SLBC) announced in its news bulletin. Later in the night Sri Lanka Rupavahini Corporation (SLRC) in its telecast said that TULF leader A. Amirthalingam had confirmed the SLBC report. No date has been fixed for their return but they would definitely be getting back home within the next two weeks.

'Rupavahini' also made it known in its telecast that the TULF is expected to participate in the provincial elections in the North and East.

Hameed, Jayewardene Meet With Japan's Kuranari

BK121204 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Japanese Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari had official talks with the Sri Lankan counterpart, Shahul Hameed, at the Foreign Ministry office in Colombo this morning. The talks covered various wide-ranging issues important to Sri Lanka. These included bilateral as well as international problems. After the talks, which lasted nearly 2 hours, the two foreign ministers exchanged notes on economic cooperation.

Later, Mr Kuranari had official discussions with the minister of finance and planning, Ronnie de Mel. Thereafter, the visiting Japanese minister called on President Jayewardene at the Janadhipathi Mandiraya [president's house].

Mr Kuranari is due to tour three Japanese-aided projects: the Sri Jayewardenepura Hospital, the National Youth Center at Maradoma, and the (Jaya) container terminal at the Colombo port this evening. He will end his 3-day visit to the island tomorrow.

Kuranari Reaffirms Economic Aid

OW121109 Tokyo KYODO in English 1049 GMT 12 Aug 87

[Text] Colombo, Aug. 12 KYODO — Japanese Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari promised his Sri Lankan counterpart A.C.S. Hameed Wednesday that the Japanese Government will promote economic cooperation with Sri Lanka as much as possible, according to Japanese officials.

In a two-and-half-hour meeting, Hameed told Kuranari there are economic factors behind the four-year-old Tamil separatist conflict, saying young people gave vent to their discontent because there had been a lack of jobs.

Hameed said economic development is required for fundamental resolution of Sri Lanka's ethnic problem and called on Japan to expand economic cooperation, according to the Japanese officials.

The Sri Lankan foreign minister urged Japan to help balance trade between the two countries. The Sri Lankan trade deficit with Japan totals 200 million U.S. dollars annually. Hameed also called on Japan to reduce tariffs on tea and called for more investment by Japanese banks.

On Japanese investments in Sri Lanka, Kuranari promised that the government will indirectly give aid provided the investment environment — including the security situation — allows, the officials said.

Kuranari, who arrived here from New Delhi Tuesday on the second leg of his three-nation South Asian tour, is the first

Japanese foreign minister to visit Sri Lanka. After meeting with Hameed, Kuranari had talks with President Junius R. Jayewardene. Kuranari told the Sri Lankan president he hopes Sri Lanka will achieve national reconciliation based on a peace agreement signed between Sri Lanka and India July 29 designed to end the ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka. More than 6,000 people have reportedly died in the conflict.

Jayewardene stressed the importance of Japan's role in the international community, saying Japan is the only country in Asia capable of competing with the U.S. and Western European countries on an equal basis, according to Japanese officials.

After Sri Lanka, Kuranari will visit Bangladesh.

Departs for Bangladesh

OW130101 Tokyo KYODO in English 0034 GMT 13 Aug 87

[Text] Colombo, Aug. 12 KYODO — Japanese Foreign Minister Tadashi Kuranari wound up a three-day visit to Sri Lanka Thursday with promises to extend economic assistance and confirming friendship with Sri Lankan leaders.

Kuranari, now on an eight-day swing through South Asia, had separate meetings Wednesday with President Junius Richard Jayewardene, Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa and Foreign Minister Abdul Carder Hameed.

President Jayewardene urged Japan to play a larger role in the international community, saying Japan is the sole Asian country capable of competing with the United States and Europe, Japanese officials said.

Prime Minister Premadasa, who visited Japan in July, was optimistic regarding a peaceful resolution to ethnic conflict between the majority Sinhalese and the minority Tamils, the officials said. Premadasa was sure that Sri Lankans will deepen their understanding on the importance of peace and order, they said.

In a meeting with Foreign Minister Hameed, Kuranari promised his best efforts to increase Japan's economic assistance.

The Japanese foreign minister, responding to Hameed's call for more Japanese investments, pledged to help meet the request but asked Sri Lanka to improve public security conditions favorable for foreign investors, the officials said. Kuranari and Hameed exchanged diplomatic documents on a 19.3 billion yen Japanese economic assistance.

Jayewardene also told Kuranari that Sri Lanka will present a baby elephant as a gift to a zoo in Chiba near Tokyo.

Kuranari, who left Japan August 9 for India, will arrive in Bangladesh from Colombo by way of Bangkok Thursday afternoon. Kuranari's Dhaka visit will be the most important political visit by a Japanese government leader in the last decade, following then Japanese Foreign Minister Iichiro Hatoyama's visit in July 1977.

Kuranari will meet President Hussain Mohammad Ershad, Vice President Nurul Islam, Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Foreign Minister Rashid Chowdhury. He will deliver a policy speech at a seminar organized by the Bangladesh Institute of Strategic Studies on Friday. In the speech, Kuranari will call for promoting dialogue and cooperative relationship between Japan and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) which groups Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Kuranari is scheduled to return to Tokyo Sunday after a stopover in Bangkok.